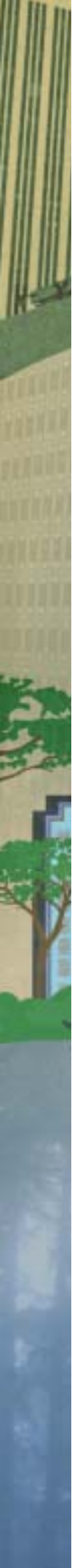


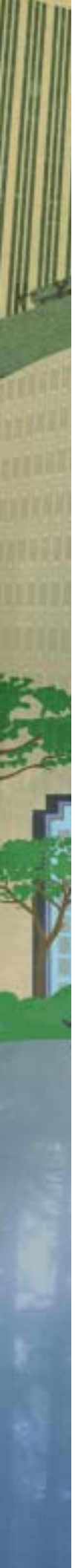
Urban and Community Forestry Accomplishment Report, FY 2002





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Executive Summary

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program addresses the stewardship needs of urban natural resources where 80 percent of the Nation lives. Because important connections exist between the quality of life in metropolitan areas and land consumption associated with sprawl, there is a strong economic and environmental case for conservation and management of green space to guide growth and revitalize city centers and older suburbs. The U&CF Program responds to these needs for more than 70 million acres of America's urban and community forest resources.

Administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service regional offices and the Northeastern Area, the U&CF Program provides technical assistance and funding to State forestry agencies and other partners to maintain, restore, and improve the health of urban trees, forests, greenspaces, and sustainable forest ecosystems. This document includes program overview reports of accomplishments by these organizations, as well as specific reports of

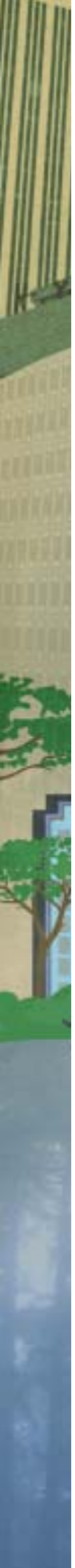
how State forestry agencies and other partners leveraged funds to achieve program goals and objectives.

Through these efforts, the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the Nation. In administering the program, the USDA Forest Service will continue to expand partnerships with many organizations to restore natural resources in older, declining cities and towns.

U&CF Program Objectives:

- Provide technical and financial assistance
- Strengthen USDA Forest Service and State leadership in the care of urban and community forest resources
- Increase transfer of technical information
- Increase awareness and education about the importance of healthy urban forest resources
- Promote volunteerism and citizen participation
- Ensure urban greening efforts are biologically sound and sustainable





Overview of State and Private Forestry Mission Area

Introduction

The State and Private Forestry mission area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service helps manage, protect, and better use all America's forests. The role of this mission area is more direct on the Federal lands where we help control wildfires and major forest pests and diseases, and more indirect on non-Federal lands where we work with States and communities, in a variety of cooperative programs. These include forest pest management, fire protection, cooperative forestry, economic development, and conservation education. The programs of this mission area help all land managers—Federal managers, small woodlot owners, tribal lands, and State agencies—in ways that help maintain the health and sustainability of trees, forests, and forested ecosystems and associated communities.

Mission

Benefit people by helping manage and protect their trees, grass and chaparral lands, and forested landscapes through expert advice and direct action, innovative technology, and financial assistance.

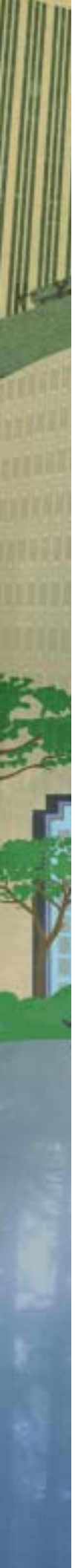
Vision

Through focused investments, we will help manage, protect, and use our natural resources so they remain healthy and sustainable. Our role is more direct on public lands and in cooperation with partners on State, private, and tribal lands. Our assistance is viewed as essential to the well-being of people and their communities.

Program Components

The following are the major program components of the State and Private Forestry mission area:

- **Urban and Community Forestry.** Enhance the livability of towns, communities, and cities by improving the stewardship of urban natural resources.
- **Forest Health Protection.** Help sustain the health and productivity of trees, forests, and forested watersheds through the management, control, and eradication of insects and diseases, including noxious weeds on all lands. This program component includes forest health monitoring to assess forest sustainability trends.
- **Cooperative Fire Protection.** Improve the fire management and control capability of States, including their volunteer fire departments, through financial assistance, training, improved equipment, and coordination. This includes helping develop an optimal firefighting capability to augment the most efficient Federal firefighting level and to ensure the protection of lives and property in the wildland-urban interface areas.
- **Cooperative Forestry.** Help States improve the multiresource management of non-Federal rural and urban forest lands through technical and financial assistance in a series of programs, including forest stewardship, forest legacy, and economic diversification and expansion.
- **Conservation Education.** Connects people to the land by increasing their awareness of the natural and cultural environment, helping them understand the complexities of ecological issues, and teaching them how to conserve natural and cultural resources for future generations.

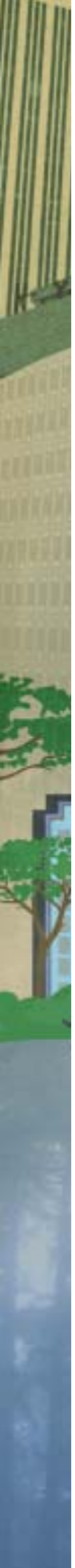


Program Overview

The program overview section provides a description of how the Urban and Community (U&CF) Program is delivered through the regions and the Northeastern Area and highlights accomplishments achieved in various States by State forestry agencies—our primary delivery system—and other partners. This section includes brief descriptions of State U&CF program activities, State

councils, volunteer activities, and contact information. These descriptions demonstrate how States and other partners are maintaining, restoring, and improving the health of urban trees, forests, and greenspaces. Through these efforts, the U&CF Program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the Nation.





Regions 1 and 4

Northern and Intermountain Regions

Program Overview

In 2002, Region 1 and Region 4 merged their State and Private Forestry (S&PF) staffs into one unit covering both regions. Bill Boettcher is the S&PF staff director and Paul Ries is the S&PF deputy director. Each staff person is now responsible for fewer S&PF programs, but covers all five States (Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota) in the two regions. Glenn Roloff is now responsible for administration, including oversight and monitoring, of the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in both regions.

National Forest Volunteer U&CF Program

In 1992, Region 1 initiated a program involving national forest personnel as volunteers to assist their communities in their U&CF efforts. Each year a request for proposals (RFP) is sent to all national forests and grasslands in the region. USDA Forest Service personnel then help communities develop a proposal for a grant

to undertake U&CF projects, such as tree planting, street tree inventories, and hazard tree removal. One of the stipulations is that USDA Forest Service personnel volunteer their time and expertise in conducting the projects. Since 1992, 83 projects in 58 communities have been funded in areas adjacent to 21 national forests and grasslands. With the merger of the two regions in 2002, Nevada and Utah communities became eligible for the first time. Twenty-nine project proposals were submitted, with 15 communities in the five State areas approved for grants.

Administration

The Region1/Region 4 U&CF Program leader provides guidance, direction, oversight, and monitoring of the U&CF Program in the five States. This person is also a member of the National U&CF Technology Transfer Team. Glenn spends considerable time and effort on the U&CF technology transfer to the State foresters and other partners.

Idaho

Program Overview

The State of Idaho is geographically rich and diverse, with ecosystems ranging from desert to alpine. This diversity, coupled with the large land area (the travel distance from the southeast corner of the State to the Canadian border in the panhandle is the same as between Washington, DC, and Chicago), can make it very challenging to deliver community forestry assistance.

Yet Idaho continues to have a very active community forestry program. About 66 percent of Idaho's population lives within the State's 200 incorporated communities and cities. Idaho's U&CF Program provides technical and financial assistance to increase public awareness and understanding of the value of sound community forestry management. This program assists Idaho communities in establishing and enhancing sustainable community forests on public and private lands. For the third consecutive year, the Idaho Transportation Department supplemented the U&CF Program with \$110,000 to landscape terraces and parks along transportation corridors within communities. The Idaho Department of Lands has partnered with all nine Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to deliver community forestry assistance locally throughout the State. The Arbor Day Trust Account was once again able to provide financial assistance to cities statewide to celebrate Arbor Day. Some 73 percent of Idaho communities were involved in the U&CF Program. The number of Tree Cities also continues to grow rapidly—61 Idaho communities are now so designated. As a percentage of all communities in the State (31 percent), Idaho ranks near the top of all States in the Nation.

Program Accomplishments

Landscaping That Teaches

By Dr. James Fazio

The City of Pocatello is getting double—or triple—duty out of a strip of landscaping next to city hall. Thanks to a Community Transportation Enhancement grant from the Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program, the landscaping beautifies the roadside at a major intersection and buffers the impact of a large parking lot. But its usefulness does not stop there. The buffer strip has been designed to show visitors how plant selection and maintenance can save water.

This unique site includes a walkway that starts in a typical high water-use zone (complete with turf), requiring about 18 inches of water per season. It winds its way through a moderate-use zone, requiring 12 inches of water, to a low-use zone that needs only 8 inches of irrigation water. Interpretive signs and leaflets are being developed and will help promote the use of trees and other vegetation that require little

watering yet provide a beautiful landscape. Techniques such as placing weed barriers beneath chip mulch and using drip irrigation are also part of the demonstration.

For more information, contact Project Coordinator Paula Jones of Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development, 1551 Baldy Ave., Pocatello, ID 83201.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 147
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 95
Number of hours of training provided: Did not track
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 9,070
Number of trees planted: Did not track
Number of Tree City USA communities: 61 (with 19 Growth Awards in 2002)

Other facts:

- Held 30 workshops on topics such as planting, pruning, inventories, chainsaw safety, and inventories.
- Cohosted (with Oregon, Washington, and Alaska) a 2-day Community Trees Conference in Boise.

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Members of the Idaho Community Forestry Council inspect Pocatello's low water-use demonstration area during the council's summer meeting. The group is near the start of a walkway in the first of three zones that require different amounts of irrigation water.

Montana

Program Overview

In its 12th year as a national program created in the 1990 Farm Bill, the U&CF Program continues to grow in Montana. The mission of the program remains the same: to have a viable program in every community in the State. The program assists community leaders, volunteers, local governments, and the tree care industry with technical assistance, planning, funding for local programs, volunteer coordination, and education. The program works closely with several major partners, including Federal agencies, Montana Resource Conservation District areas, the university systems, and private organizations. Staff also participates in the Montana League of Cities and Towns, local tree and park boards, and volunteer organizations.

Program Accomplishments

In 2002, the Eastern Montana community of Forsyth (pop. 1,400) began a citywide and schoolwide tree project titled The Forsyth Tree Project. Forsyth teachers integrated Arc View/GIS training into the high school curriculum for the purposes of using students to conduct a community tree inventory and learn the software. The result was a K-12 participation in an all-school Arbor Day celebration with educational, hands-on activity booths, tree plantings, and school programs. Additionally, students are serving on the Forsyth Community Tree Board; assisting with revisions of Forsyth's tree ordinance and writing grants to help fund community tree plantings. The community has submitted its application for Tree City USA designation for 2002 and has presented the project to the International Society of Arboriculture, Rocky Mountain Chapter, at its annual conference in Colorado. The board plans to make the citywide and schoolwide program an annual event.



Many community residents attended the Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony in Forsyth, MT.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 125
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 105
Number of hours of training provided: No record
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 500
Number of trees planted: No record
Number of Tree City USA communities: 28

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Nevada

Program Overview

Nevada's U&CF Program assists communities in developing and maintaining their urban forests through financial, educational, and technical tree care and planting assistance. Subgrants have been awarded to 70 Nevada communities throughout the State. Nevada's U&CF Program sponsors national programs such as Tree City USA and National Arbor Day Poster Contest, the National Big Tree Program. Nevada is currently updating its State Big Tree Register and has measured more than 100 new trees for the new edition.

Program Accomplishments

Sun Valley Community Park was awarded a Title VIII Metropolitan Statistical Area grant for a community park tree-planting project. A Title VIII grant for \$9,166 was awarded to Washoe County for a tree-planting project around the new teen center at the Sun Valley Community Park, a 27-acre park that serves more than 71,000 visitors a year. Funding for forestation is limited in Sun Valley, resulting in a park with several large, unattractive, barren dirt areas. The goal of this project was to plant trees to screen a newly built teen center from a residential area, reduce blowing dust and soil erosion, and beautify the park. The entire community was mailed a tree care handout developed by the project coordinator. On "Adopt a Park" day in the fall of 2002, 175 volunteers showed up and planted 68 trees. The project received a Nevada Recreation and Park Society Program Excellence award. The project was matched with more than \$16,000 in cash contributions and in-kind matching funds.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 53
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 59
Number of hours of training provided: Not tracked
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 471
Number of trees planted: 271 (grant projects trees only; does not include shrubs)
Number of Tree City USA communities: 8

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This Washoe County, Nevada, community park tree-planting project brought out more than 175 volunteers who planted 68 trees.



Local volunteer labor, such as this local policewoman provided, contributed to a very successful tree-planting project that received Nevada Recreation and Park Society Program Excellence Award.

North Dakota

Program Overview

The 2000 U.S. Census identified 372 communities in North Dakota. This number includes military bases and tribal communities. Of the 642,200 people who live in North Dakota, 53 percent of them live in the 15 largest cities in the State. To the people of these cities, natural resource management means conservation activities in city parks, tree-lined streets, and other green spaces within their communities. Our greatest ability to reach out to them and improve their appreciation and understanding of forest resources lies in working with them, within their towns and cities, to accomplish locally identified social, economic, and environmental goals.

Program Accomplishments

After the August 8, 2001, wind event, the Grand Forks Herald's parent company, Knight Ridder, donated \$25,000 to the reforestation of five communities that were hardest hit within the readership of the newspaper. This program was called the Knight Ridder Releaf Program. The wind event did not recognize State boundaries, with the communities most affected from the storm located in both North Dakota and Minnesota. The two State forestry agencies worked together to implement and deliver the program. One of the goals that came from discussions with the communities was the need for training on storm management and trees. In the spring 2002, the two States hosted a "Storm Management and Trees" workshop located in Grand Forks. More than 80 people attended the workshop.

The 500 Lewis and Clark (L&C) Cottonwoods grown from seed collected from the Smith Grove 2 years ago will be ready for distribution to North Dakota grade schools this year. As reported last year, this project started with the effort to help communities prepare for the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. A new partnership was formed with the North Dakota National Guard; they transported the 6-foot L&C Cottonwood trees to the 400 grade schools in the State.

North Dakota Community Forestry Council

The North Dakota Community Forestry Council is an advisory group composed of 19 members from Federal, State, tribal, and local entities, as well as green industry and nonprofit groups. The council assists the State forester in recommending direction for the State Community Forestry Program.

Volunteer Program

The goal of the U&CF Program is to provide leadership "to care for, protect and improve community forestry resources for current and future generations."

The North Dakota Forest Service is responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance to volunteer groups, cities, and other local government entities in all phases of forestry. Program assistance includes tree-planting plans, management plans, shade tree ordinances, pest surveys, and tree-maintenance workshops.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 123
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 123
Number of hours of training provided: 3467
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 571
Number of trees planted: 9,194
Number of Tree City USA awards: 54
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 9
Number of projects and outreach to culturally diverse communities: 7
Number of community forestry workshops and training events: 14

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Utah

Program Overview

The purpose of Utah's UC&F Program is to support the establishment of locally directed tree management programs in Utah communities. A major goal is to enhance the quality of life for Utah's citizens through increasing the awareness of the benefits that community trees provide.

Utah's UC&F Program contributes to the implementation of the Utah Tomorrow Strategic Plan adopted by the Utah Legislature in 1995. Among those adopted strategies addressed through the U&CF Program are the promotion of environmental quality for air, water, and flora, and the encouragement of partnerships between those parties who manage, develop, and use renewable and nonrenewable resources. Many partnerships between Federal government, local government, and volunteer organizations contribute to the great success this program has achieved throughout the years.

In 2002, the National Arbor Day Foundation recognized 33 Utah cities as Tree City USA communities. These 33 communities represent 46 percent of the State's population, or 1,053,720 citizens, who experienced the benefits of trees.

Program Accomplishments

During 2002, Salt Lake City, UT, hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics Games. The Community Forest Partnership was formed to work with communities to plant trees at selected Olympic gateway and venue sites. The partnership supported projects in 21 communities and 8 counties. More than 5,400 volunteers contributed 23,100 hours of service to plant 4,825 trees. The \$500,000 in Federal money leveraged \$854,800 of matching contributions.

Title II Inner City funds provide grants to support projects that benefit underserved or low-income communities within Utah's largest cities or metropolitan areas. The State provided Tree Utah, a Title II grant, to develop a "Youth Employment Training and Stewardship Program" in the Salt Lake metropolitan area. This project held 2 series of classes addressing urban trees; tree planting, and tree care for 28 students of 5 intercity schools. Students participated in 2 urban plantings, the restoration of one urban riparian area by planting 100 seedlings, and the pruning and mulching of 40 street trees in urban areas. Two graduates of this program were placed in seasonal jobs assisting with the urban tree program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 64
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 40
Number of hours of training provided (approx.): 264
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 5,100
Number of trees planted: 34,800
Number of Tree City USA communities: 33

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Region 2

Rocky Mountain Region

Program Overview

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program focuses its efforts on helping communities develop and sustain their own forest resource management programs through technical and financial assistance delivered by a partnership of Federal and State forestry with many local partners, communities, and organizations.

- Fifty-three percent or 1,000 of the communities in the five-State region have a level of program development from project level to the fully sustained project. This number represents an increase of communities over last year. In 2003, the region anticipates that a 5-percent increase will bring the number of communities the program works with to nearly 1,100.
- Volunteerism and education are integral parts of the programs.
- Of major significance is the local leverage of \$28.8 million, or nearly 15 times the Federal investment. States, local communities, businesses, and citizens made these investments.

Goals

- Establish and enhance relationships with local, State, and other Federal agencies and entities in support of developing capacity at the community level.
- Support the development of cultural values that recognize the importance of natural resources in populated places.
- Increase the capacity of State forestry agencies, local governments, and communities with the private sector to create and implement local programs that will sustain and improve urban and community natural resources.

Encourage people to become actively involved in managing and protecting their urban and community forest and natural resources, especially in the areas of natural disaster prevention and response.

Issues

- Rapid and unplanned urbanization is creating significant natural resource degradation, compounding local social and economic issues. Environmental justice issues arise in urban areas as a result of changing demographics and the cities' inability to respond to restoration needs.
- Local communities are not able to care for and maintain their forest resources because of increasing demand for services and the declining ability to meet demands.
- Our urban forests are aging, the health of natural resources is declining, and pollution is increasing--making inner city urban areas less desirable places in which to live, work, and play.

- Community risk to natural disaster has been identified as a high-priority issue; however, risk reduction at the community level remains a challenge to smaller communities and those with limited resources.

Program Highlights

In Oglala, SD, a tornado ripped through the small town. Urban forestry has responded by meeting with the residents and hearing the message that people want trees. A small grant has helped to reestablish a community forest. On September 26, 2000, community volunteers planted 102 landscape trees, and in May and June of 2001, they planted another 141 trees. This effort brings together Federal, State, and local governments with Sioux tribal members in an effort to revitalize community and incorporate native culture.

Grant programs remain strong throughout Nebraska, the home of Arbor Day. In South Omaha, members of St. Joseph's church worked with local community volunteers to plant trees in a blighted neighborhood. The grant helped to bring together a troubled community in a positive fashion. Nebraska Forest Service also worked with other State agencies, such as the health department, on sustaining neighborhood efforts.

The city of Casper, WY, continued with a greatly enhanced approach to managing their urban forest. During the year, they planted 1,459 trees and pruned more than 100 mature trees. A change of local ordinances authorized the community to manage its boulevard trees, and \$100,000 was allocated from the city budget to continue with the work. The State forester also assisted technically with an inventory of the urban forest and updated the inventory with the city's Geographic Information System (GIS).

Colorado Cares Day had its first community forestry program this year at the Capital Park in Denver. The program presented results from an urban ecosystem assessment that demonstrate the economic and ecologic value of trees. This effort is being followed by an urban carbon credit and forest health project.

In Parsons, Tonganoxie, and Hoisington, KS, a coordinated effort has assisted the communities to remove hazardous trees and maintain other damaged ones, to replant tornado-devastated areas, and establish a social framework for providing long-term management of the community forests. After a tornado, hazardous trees are identified and removed; damaged trees are cared for; and new trees are planted.

Colorado

Program Overview

There are 396 cities and towns in Colorado. The U&CF coordinator, in conjunction with district foresters, provides technical and educational support to more than 330 communities, most of which are organized under a volunteer tree board/program. The Tree City USA Certification and Recognition Program is one measure of the success of local volunteer efforts.

Program Accomplishments

In fiscal year (FY) 2002 the U&CF division underwent a major change. In February, the division conducted interviews for the division supervisor position and selected Ralph Campbell. In October, U&CF added two assistant staff positions. Keith Wood, who will be in the Broomfield office, will serve the Denver metro area and assist with the Eastern Slope districts. Vince Urbina, whose office will be in Grand Junction, will assist districts and communities on the Western Slope.

Two people from Colorado won National Arbor Day Foundation Awards in 2002. Phil Hoefer received the Frederick Law Olmsted Award and Gertie Grant with Denver Digs Trees received a Project Award.

The Colorado State Forest Service, the Colorado Tree Coalition, the International Society of Arboriculture—Rocky Mountain Chapter, and the City and County of Denver teamed up to sponsor Tree Spree. Tree Spree, an event open to the public, includes educational displays, a tree-climbing championship, and a bike ride. The bike ride raises funds that are split between the International Society of Arboriculture and the CTC for research and tree-planting projects.

The U&CF held many other educational workshops around the State, covering topics that currently affect communities and the State as a whole. The major topics include wildland urban interface issues, hazard trees, droughts, and general tree care.

A resident from the town of Lamar won the 2002 statewide National Arbor Day Poster Contest, a program that is expanding throughout the State. In FY 2002, the number of submitted posters tripled from that of FY 2001.

In FY 2002, 90 communities in the State of Colorado were designated as Tree City USA communities. Many of these smaller communities do not have a city forestry department but rely upon volunteer tree boards to provide information and expertise to city leaders. The U&CF coordinator, the district staff, and the CTC work together to ensure these people are well informed

through various tree care workshops, onsite training, and tree-related seminars.

The Colorado State Forest Service helped the CTC produce the 2003 Notable Trees of Colorado calendar, which depicts 12 notable trees from around the State and includes tidbits on the planting, care, and management of the urban forest.

The U&CF Council

Colorado's State Council, the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC), is growing in number and visibility throughout the State. The coalition provides financial and technical assistance to many communities throughout the State. In FY 2002, 22 communities received grants totaling \$40,127. This funding resulted in adding 3,425 trees to the urban forest. Through the partnership with the USDA Forest Service, along with other nonprofit groups and corporations, the CTC has been able to award 272 communities with grants totaling \$410,076 in the past 11 years. This effort resulted in planting 54,931 trees and completing many educational brochures and publications.

Volunteer Program

Strong partnerships are being formed with tree boards and communities and also with nonprofit groups. The State coordinator has helped link together many groups such as the Colorado Tree Coalition, the International Society of Arboriculture, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and volunteer tree boards to preserve, renew, and enhance community forests throughout the State. Each year volunteers contribute more than 10,000 days of service.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 298
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 330
Number of hours of training provided: 7,246
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 9,033
Number of trees planted: 8,750
Number of Tree City USA communities: 90

Contacts

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Kansas

Program Overview

Kansas has a total of 925 incorporated and unincorporated cities and towns, which comprise 902,000 acres of land and represent 79 percent of the total State population of 2.5 million. The Kansas Forest Service's (KFS's) U&CF Program focuses on 638 communities of these communities. These communities are home to 76 percent of the State population. The KFS's program priorities are (1) organization of local volunteer "tree boards" to advise the government on public tree activities, (2) tree planting, (3) tree care and maintenance, (4) dead tree removal, and (5) waste wood use.

Program Accomplishments

The 30th annual weeklong Arborist Training Course, cosponsored by the Kansas Forest Service and Kansas Arborist Association (KAA), trained 40 arborists. Since 1975, more than 1,260 individuals have taken the course, with more than 200 of the students going on to become certified arborists with the KAA. In addition, the staff of the KFS, working with other local and State organizations, provided 52 total community forestry-related training and outreach events across the State to reach more than 4,910 individuals. Eleven of the events were U&CF-topic-specific, day-long training events; 22 supported conservation and education efforts to K-12 students; and 19 were engagements and presentations to local and State civic organizations across the State. Capacity building continues to be a priority of the agency. Recognizing the need to build upon partnerships and collaboration, a special emphasis continues to be placed in working and developing relationships with other "green" interest groups within the State. The KFS's U&CF coordinator attended business-related meetings and activities and initiated dialogue for future cooperative efforts among the Kansas Arborist Association, Kansas Nursery and Landscape Association, and other green industry organizations.

Volunteer Program

The U&CF coordinator, in conjunction with eight district foresters, provides technical and educational

support to more than 130 communities, most of which are organized under a volunteer tree board/program. The Kansas Tree City USA Certification and Recognition Program is one measure of the success of local volunteer efforts. During the past program year, 97 communities were certified as Tree City USA communities. The combined volunteer efforts of more than 506 individuals serving on local tree boards, with the support and assistance of their local district foresters, coordinated the planting of more than 20,544 trees, pruned more than 88,396 trees, and removed an additional 10,493 trees that were dead or dying or represented hazards. These communities, which represent more than 62 percent of the population of Kansas, spent more than \$14 million in managing and protecting the State's community forest resources.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 213
Number of technical assists to communities: 130
Number of training hours provided: 4,801
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 1,950
Number of trees planted: 20,544
Number of Tree City USA communities: 97
Number of community assessments: 7
Number of community inventories: 8
Number of community management plans: 13
Number of U&CF workshops and training events: 11

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Nebraska

Program Overview

During FY 2002, the Nebraska Forest Service launched new initiatives in three areas in addition to maintaining the normal function of the community forestry program. Addition of a second assistant and redistribution of priorities among the three staff enabled those initiatives to be successful.

Program Accomplishments

Nebraska Tree Improvement Program

We know through research and studies that trees that are properly maintained in an urban setting tend to last longer and are more vigorous and healthy than those that are not. The Nebraska Legislature established the Tree Recovery Program (TRP) to help communities with tree removals. The program is aimed at removal and replacement of hazardous or dangerous trees. But there remains a great need for public tree maintenance. The Nebraska Forest Service received a special grant from the USDA Forest Service to try a pilot program of tree maintenance. The three communities approved for the program are York (pop. 7,940), Gretna (pop. 2,249), and Gothenburg (pop. 3,347). Each community agreed to a matching grant up to \$10,000. The trimming had to follow trimming methods from the ANSI A300 standards. The community forestry staff took before and after photos to record the immediate benefits of the trimming. Gretna used its funds to clean up trees in a community park. Gothenburg and York trimmed street trees for visibility, safety, and vehicular clearance. The program was so well received in York that the Public Works Department continued trimming past their matching cost for the grant. The pilot will run again in 2003 with a few changes. Communities receiving the grants must have populations of less than 2,000 and must use a certified arborist to do the trimming.

Utility Training for Directional Pruning

In the past, power companies have used trimming techniques on trees near power lines that required topping the tree or rounding it over, if not completely removing it. Research and studies have shown that this technique has a negative effect on tree health and vigor. It also leaves communities with disease, insect, and rot problems. At the same time, allowing power companies to practice these outdated pruning techniques gives homeowners and others the improper idea of how to prune a tree. The Nebraska Forest Service is redoubling efforts to provide directional pruning workshops to the utility companies in Nebraska. This full-day workshop consists of three morning talks (tree anatomy, general pruning, and directional pruning) and afternoon hands-on directional pruning in the outdoors. The workshop enables the Nebraska Forest Service to reach an industry that touches many trees and enables the power companies to fulfill their requirements for a safety/education class.



Gothenburg Pruning.

Tree City USA 2002

During FY 2002, the Tree City USA Awards program in Nebraska was expanded. In the past, the celebration consisted of a 2- to 3-hour program during which the community representatives meet at the State Capitol in Lincoln, get their picture taken with the Governor, receive their awards, and return to their communities. In April 2002, the Nebraska Forest Service provided a day-long event to recognize the 110 communities that achieved Tree City USA status.

Nebraska Community Forestry grant programs remained strong in FY 2002. A total of 82 projects were completed for a total of \$537,000 and 6,159 trees and shrubs planted. The total cost of all projects was \$963,000. These projects included tree removal, tree planting, tree improvement, and scholarships for tree activists to attend educational meetings and seminars.

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Arbor Day celebration.

South Dakota

Program Overview

The purpose of the U&CF Program is to help State forestry agencies help local tribal governments and the private sector improve the management of trees and forests in urban areas and community settings.

Goals

Provide a "Strategic Plan for South Dakota Urban Forestry Assistance" that clearly outlines the goals of this program.

Provide an aggressive challenge grant and subgrant program for local groups and agencies to implement projects outlined in the strategic plan.

Develop and implement an aggressive public information campaign to address the need for urban forestry programs in our communities.

Strengthen the Tree City USA program in South Dakota by doubling the number of designated communities by FY 2007.

Complete street tree inventories for at least 10 percent of the communities in South Dakota by FY 2005.

Maintain an accurate Big Tree Register for South Dakota within national guidelines and standards.

Program Accomplishments

Sinai Re-Greening Project

This project is helping establish a community forest for the storm-ravaged community of Sinai, SD.

Robbinsdale Park Tree Planting

This project will incorporate natural vegetation and Ponderosa pine trees along a walking path in Robbinsdale Park, Rapid City, SD.

City of Baltic Northeast Park

The city of Baltic is in the process of establishing a new city park.

South Dakota Community Forest Inventory Project

The South Dakota State Forestry division has developed a system for providing an Internet community forest inventory system capable of providing a standardized, user-friendly community forest inventory.

The Resource Conservation and Forestry Division is inventorying nine communities. The results of these inventories will help identify the condition of urban forests throughout South Dakota.

South Dakota Mini-Arboretum Project

When this arboretum project is completed, the arboretums will give the public a look at which tree species grow in various parts of South Dakota, what size they can attain, and what they look like.

Mini-Arboretum projects have been started in Kadoka, SD, and at the Journey Museum in Rapid City, SD. The mini-arboretum in Pierre, SD, will be installing new signage, and the Aberdeen arboretum will add more species of trees.

Statistical Highlights

Number of communities assisted: 66
Percentage of all communities: 21
Number of technical assists to communities: 105
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,737
Number of Tree City USA communities: 30

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Wyoming

Program Overview

The Wyoming State Forestry Division's U&CF Program is a multifaceted program composed of tree-planting and educational grants, the Tree City USA program, conservation education, technical assistance through workshops and onsite visits, arborist certification, and community Arbor Day celebrations. The program focuses on the State's 98 incorporated communities. More than 70 percent of Wyoming residents live in these communities. A quarterly newsletter with a circulation of 1,300 is distributed to community elected offices, tree boards, and the general public. This 12-page newsletter has been an effective tool for disseminating timely community forestry management and technical information.

Wyoming Community Forestry Council

The Wyoming Community Forestry Council (WCFC) advises the State forester on program direction for the U&CF Program in Wyoming. The State forester appoints the 12-member committee, which represents a broad segment of urban forestry interests from community officials to representatives of conservation and business organizations. The WCFC reviews tree-planting and community forestry education grant applications and awards approximately \$50,000 in cost-share grants annually to more than 25 communities. A representative of the council serves on the State Forest Advisory Committee and council members assist with the annual State Capital Arbor Day Celebration.

Volunteer Program

The Wyoming Tree City USA Certification Program serves as a basis for volunteer efforts in developing or improving long-term, successful urban forestry programs. During FY 2002, 32 cities and towns were certified as Tree City USA communities, which represents approximately one-third of the State's incorporated municipalities. Their total expenditures on managing

their community forests was more than \$1.7 million. The average per capita expenditure on urban forestry programs in these communities is \$6.10. More than 150 volunteers serve on local tree boards in these communities. The State Forestry Division and WCFC provide direction and training for the citizen volunteers. In FY 2002, several tree board members attended local and regional community forestry conferences as well as the National Tree City USA Conference. A statewide tree board conference has been well attended in the past and will once again take place in FY 2003.

The Community Forestry Grant Program requires the involvement of volunteers in all funded projects. Since the beginning of the grant program in 1991, 7,264 volunteers have contributed 30,310 hours of their time, resulting in the planting of 18,790 trees on public property. The Education and Program Development grants have provided outreach to thousands of citizens through tree-care workshops, local brochures on tree selection and care, interpretive signage for arboretums, and tree inventories and management plans.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 62
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 49
Number of hours of training provided: 1,025
Number of days of volunteer assistance generated: 802
Number of trees planted (with grants): 876

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Region 3

Southwestern Region

Professional staffs within the New Mexico and Arizona State Forestry organizations deliver the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program to a combined population of more than 6.9 million people in 929 communities across the two States. State program coordinators and volunteer coordinators cooperate closely with nonprofit organizations, State tree councils, utility companies, volunteers, and other partners to carry out locally developed State U&CF plans, which seek to create sustained U&CF programs within each community. In fiscal year (FY) 2002, 152 communities in the Southwestern Region were actively participating in the U&CF Program.

Together, Arizona and New Mexico received nearly \$620,000 in Federal U&CF funding in FY 2002, which they matched with more than \$1,053,000 in funding and leveraged support.

Devastating wildfires dominated the landscape of Arizona and New Mexico during FY 2002, affecting the management situation and delivery of all Cooperative Forestry (CF) programs as the fires burned forests and homes across hundreds of square miles. These events sparked new responses to wildfire issues, including the formation from within the Arizona Community Tree Council of a new nonprofit group, Trees for the Rim, which directly provides emergency recovery assistance to private homeowners within fire-affected communities. To date, Trees for the Rim has secured more than \$275,000 in private donations to support

this work. Funding supplies materials and training for private land watershed recovery within communities, training in defensible space, firewise landscaping, and the use of plant materials to mitigate fire losses. U&CF staffs in both States have been leaders in public education efforts responding to the massive bark beetle outbreaks that are currently devastating both urban and wildland forest landscapes.

More traditional U&CF issues related to street and city trees continue to receive attention in both States. New Mexico launched its Albuquerque Tree Initiative, a nonprofit effort for assisting the State's largest city with meeting tree replacement needs. The Think Trees group in New Mexico continues to provide arborist and tree care education to the State's green industry in an annual conference that reaches more than 250 participants.

The Arizona Community Tree Council's annual conference brought together some 150 arborists and tree care workers for training, as did the annual arborist certification, electrical safety, and tree worker education workshops, which are conducted in Spanish and English. The council sponsors bimonthly educational workshops, providing important continuing education opportunities for the green industry statewide.

Both States provide financial and/or technical support directly to communities and nonprofit groups to develop local U&CF programs and activities.

Arizona

Program Overview

The State of Arizona's U&CF Program is administered by the Natural Resources Division of the Arizona State Land Department, where it is delivered by a program coordinator and a volunteer coordinator in association with other department personnel and a statewide network of affiliated partners and volunteers. It serves some 418 communities in Arizona, which has a rapidly growing population, now exceeding 5.2 million people, in a large, geographically, ethnically, and botanically diverse State.

Program Accomplishments

Basics in arboriculture classes are offered six times per year throughout Arizona. The classes prepare students to become ISA Certified Arborists and Tree Workers. Since 1992 this effort has helped increase the number of certified arborists working in Arizona from 19 to 312. Recognizing the need for training in both Spanish and English, the U&CF Program offers these workshops in both languages.

Annually, the Governor issues an Arbor Day proclamation, which is used to kick off a program of education and community outreach featuring an Arbor Day poster contest for fifth-graders statewide. Winners are recognized in an Arbor Day ceremony at the State Capitol.

The Arizona Community Tree Council

The Arizona Community Tree Council, organized as a nonprofit group, advises the State Land Commissioner on U&CF issues, provides considerable technical and logistical support to the program, and sponsors an annual conference introducing new urban forestry techniques. The council also conducts seven workshops per year, covering subjects such as tree appraisal, tree hazards, tree climbing, and related topics. These workshops attract 1,200–1,500 people annually. The Land Department, council, and utility company partners also sponsor an annual electrical line safety workshop for tree workers, featuring presentations in English and Spanish.

Volunteer Program

Program goals, developed by the Tree Council, Land Department staff, and associates, and adopted in Arizona's U&CF plan, emphasize encouraging volunteerism, recognizing urban forest resources as a vital part of community infrastructure, and providing high-quality care to those resources. In FY 2002, the staff and council recognized the importance of tree management in the community interface with the State's natural forests. Following the devastating fires in June and



R-3-Arizona. Trees for the Rim.



R-3-Arizona.

July, the council formed a new nonprofit group, Trees for the Rim, which, in partnership with Safeway Corp., will assist with reforestation and restoration in private acreages within the fire area. By the end of FY 2002, \$275,000 had been raised to assist with this effort. The long-range plan foresees using the private donations to leverage grant funding to expand and continue these efforts for at least 5 years.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 79
Number of technical assists to communities 176
Number of training hours provided: 6,380
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,100
Number of Tree City USA communities: 14

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New Mexico

Program Overview

The State of New Mexico's U&CF Program is administered by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division, where it is delivered by a program coordinator and a contract volunteer coordinator in association with other department personnel and a statewide network of affiliated partners and volunteers. The New Mexico Urban Forest Council advises the State forester on U&CF issues. The program is available to a State population of 1.8 million people in 511 communities. Program goals and objectives are contained in a 5-year plan, which was revised in early FY 2002.

Program Accomplishments

Recovery of urban forest landscapes following the recent extraordinary fire season continues to be a strong focus of the U&CF Program. Likewise, the program's work with public fire education and hazard reduction through the Backyard Tree Farm and Twenty Communities efforts keeps U&CF actively engaged in rural and urban areas. As part of the National Fire Plan and other programs, defensible space projects in 11 communities were granted \$2.4 million, assisting 341 landowners in treating 1,296 acres. The Forestry Division Web site includes information about community fire prevention programs.

In cooperation with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the New Mexico Association of Nursery Industries, and the nonprofit group Think Trees (<http://www.thinktrees.org>), the U&CF Program coordinator helps produce an annual Think Trees conference, showcasing the best in tree care training and techniques. Other U&CF Program highlights include an annual statewide Fifth Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest, the Governor's Arbor Month Proclamation, and the Tucumcari/Clovis Regional Tree Care Conference, hosted by the community Tree Boards.

Volunteer Program

New Mexico's contract Volunteer Coordinator; Tree New Mexico Inc., (TNM) has served the program for 12 years. TNM has a volunteer base of 1,700 and maintains contacts with some 2,800 interested citizens, students, and businesses. During FY 2002, TNM worked with agency staff, volunteers, training-session participants, and students to plant more than 66,000 trees in 120 separate plantings. TNM also provided classroom training to nearly 1,786 students at 10 New Mexico schools. The TNM newsletter Tree Press and its River Rescue Citizen Action Guide and River Rescue Program Guide all complement the U&CF Program and help it reach new people. As a founder of the recent Albuquerque Tree Initiative and operator of a National Tree Trust Regional Grow-out facility, TNM enhances the U&CF Program beyond its contractual volunteer coordination duties.



R-3. Youth in Albuquerque Tree Initiative Kickoff event.



R-3. Albuquerque Tree Initiative Kickoff.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 73
Number of technical assists to communities: 51
Number of training hours provided: 3,057
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 4,844
Number of Tree City USA communities: 8

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Region 5

Pacific Southwest Region

The State and Private Forestry Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical and financial assistance to State partners. The Pacific Southwest Region includes eight State forestry agencies:

- American Samoa
- California
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Saipan, Rota, and Tinian
- Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Republic of Palau

Each of these partner agencies actively administers ongoing U&CF programs within their respective government's forestry organizations.

Each State U&CF coordinator has established relationships with local nonprofit organizations and other community groups to build capacity and sustain ongoing urban forestry efforts, particularly in awareness and volunteer coordination.

Another key component of the Region 5 U&CF Program is the Center For Urban Forest Research, which is located on the campus of the University of California, Davis. The center provides technical assistance to all 17 Western States that make up the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 1,033

Number of technical assists to communities: 995

Number of days of volunteer assistance: 16,181

American Samoa

Program Overview

The U&CF Program in American Samoa is the largest cooperative forestry effort in terms of dollars expended and level of public participation. Federal funding in fiscal year (FY) 2002 was \$150,000, which was used to facilitate maintenance of the coordinator's position, activities of the Territorial Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, volunteer coordination, and continued work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in the 5-year strategic plan. The American Samoa U&CF (ASUCF) Program has developed a monthly television program that focuses on current environmental issues such as population pressure on lowland rainforests, invasive species, mangrove filling, coastal zone erosion, recycling, and Adopt-A-Watershed curriculum in the local schools. The ASUCF Program continues to work with Tausagi, an intergovernmental agency group that administers environmental education. Much of the education is conducted in local schools, and 35 teachers have been trained.

U&CF has been working with the American Samoa National Park and the Office of Preservation on various projects over the years. Current projects include a revitalization and revegetation effort at Blunts Point Battery, a local landmark. Blunts Point is made up of four 6-inch naval guns that were positioned during World War II to defend the entrance to Pago Pago. The battery was built in 1941 and occupied by the U.S. Navy until 1951. Currently, the U&CF Program is funding an internship for this project. The intern and forestry crew have mapped the entire area, using Global Positioning System and Geographic Information System technology. The map will be used to create a poster depicting what the site was like originally and what it looks like now. The project will also include replanting native species and incorporating interpretive signage.

Arbor week is an annual event in American Samoa. The FY 2002 theme, Appreciate Forest Values, focused on studying the forest. At 15 schools more than 300

students planted trees. The local television station and newspapers attended and premiered the day over the next week.

The U&CF Council

American Samoa maintains a 20-member U&CF Advisory Council made up of members from public and private entities from both the Manu'a Islands and Tutuila.

Volunteer Program

U&CF works with local volunteer groups such as Tausagi, a local community-based organization; Americorps; Cub Scouts; Women's Small Business Center; and the Department of Education.

Statistical Highlights

Total number of communities: 52
Number of participating communities: 34
Number of technical assists to communities: 34
Number of training hours provided: 80
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,040
Number of trees planted: 5,000

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California

Program Overview

California continues to expand annually, with small communities developing at a rapid pace, especially in the Central Valley region.

Federal funding for the California U&CF Program was \$900,000. This amount included \$200,000 for inner-city grants for the inner-city program, which California ReLeaf is handling as pass-through grants. California ReLeaf also helps with distributing Federal tree planting and outreach grants, both of which support California's volunteer and outreach component.

Established U&CF regional councils continue to be of great value in presenting information from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Urban Forestry Program to interested community leadership, professionals, and the general public. They also provide feedback to CDF for help in designing State-funded and federally funded urban forest programs. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Urban Forestry Ecosystems Institute is maintaining Urban Forestry Academies and the Urban Forestry Web site, both in partnership with CDF.

Title VIII grant funding is under contract and is currently in progress. This project provides vegetation analysis in regional areas using high-resolution satellite imagery and American Forest's "CITY green" urban forestry analysis model. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Urban Forestry Ecosystems Institute maintains this program. Benefits from the information will be used for technical assistance, creation of public policy, communication, and training for upgrading urban forests in Central and Southern California.

The U&CF Council

The California Community Forestry Advisory Committee continues to help guide CDF in decisionmaking that

affects urban forestry in the State. This committee comprises several CDF Urban Forestry specialists, a broad section of urban forestry professionals in the State, and representatives from each of the State's regional urban forestry councils.

Volunteer Program

Volunteer coordination for the State of California is administered via contract with the Trust for Public Lands, California ReLeaf organization. This organization administers subgrant programs throughout the State for tree planting and capacity building. The California ReLeaf director is also a member of the statewide U&CF Advisory Committee. In 2003, California ReLeaf will receive sponsorship from the National Tree Trust.

Statistical Highlights

Total number of communities: 858
Number of participating communities: 719
Number of sustained communities: 285
Number of technical assists to communities: 650
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 6,000
Number of Tree City USA communities: 131
Number of trees planted with funds available, 7-01 to 6-02: 50,814

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Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap

Program Overview

The U&FC Program in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) includes projects in the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. Federal funding provides support for maintaining the coordinator's position, activities of the U&CF Advisory Council, volunteer coordination, and continued work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in each State's 5-year strategic plan. Major coastal erosion control measures of planting mangrove trees are a major focus for each of the islands, because erosion is a constant threat to sustainability. Ongoing training and awareness campaigns are also a major component of all the Federated States since they are experiencing increased development and road building, which are real threats to the islands. Invasive species assessment and suppression continue to be priorities for all the Federated States.

The U&CF Council

Each of the Federated States of Micronesia maintains an U&CF Advisory Council, with each state providing representation for the overall FSM U&CF strategy. This type of organization ensures equity distributing funds and technical assistance and also ensures that emerging priorities are addressed as quickly as possible.

Volunteer Program

Volunteer coordination is primarily the responsibility of the U&CF coordinators located in each state. Most coordinators receive adequate volunteer assistance from advisory council members and other island volunteers, schools, and community organizers.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 134
Number of technical assists to communities: 18
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 7,193

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Guam

Program Overview

The U&CF Program in Guam continues to evolve. Federal funding over the last 3 years has consistently provided \$175,000 annually, which facilitates maintenance of the coordinator's position, activities of the U&CF Advisory Council, volunteer coordination, and continued work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in our 5-year strategic plan.

The U&CF Council

The Guam U&CF Advisory Council is composed of 35 members from throughout the island and includes representatives from public and private organizations and the office of the Governor.

Late in FY 2002, Guam experienced severe storm damage from two major typhoons. Tree maintenance and replanting will be the focus of the U&CF Program in FY 2003.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 20
Number of technical assists to communities: 16
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 100
Number of Tree City USA communities: 1

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Hawaii

Program Overview

Kaulunani had a productive year. In the U&CF Program, 28 cost-share grants were awarded for the following community-based projects: nine tree-planting projects, seven education and outreach projects, three workshops, one conference, an urban forestry awards program, six Arbor Day grants, and three Schools Make a Difference grants. In addition to the traditional grant program, the four Title VIII grants are nearly complete.

Program Accomplishments

Assessment

Kaulunani completed a 10-year assessment of the program. Its purpose was to provide the council with a wide range of information regarding previous tree-planting projects.

The assessment results provided information that led to the planning of a 1.5-day retreat to rethink, not only the services provided to the community but also the manner in which they are delivered.

Arbor Day

The Arbor Day activities expanded with new sites and activities, providing communities more opportunities for involvement.

School Grants

A new grant program, Schools Make a Difference, was created to provide forestry education in schools. The program brings landscape architects, Kaulunani, and certified arborists together to plan and implement a successful tree-planting project on campuses throughout the State. Most of its success is due to a unique partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects—Hawaii Chapter.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities (four incorporated counties): 123
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 48
Number of training hours provided: 2,581
Number of days of volunteers assistance: 1,268
Number of trees planted: 3,424
Number of Tree City USA communities: 3

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

Program Overview

The U&CF Program in the Mariana Islands continues to grow every year. Federal funding in FY 2002 was \$129,955, which facilitates maintenance of the coordinator's position and cofunds the nursery manager's salary for 1 year. The Advisory Council, made up of various entities, also reviews and takes part in the U&CF Program. The Advisory Council and its coordinators continue to work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in the 5-year strategic plan.

The U&CF Council

The Island of Saipan maintains an U&CF Advisory Council with 14 members composed of public and private sectors. The Island of Tinian maintains a nine-member panel and the Island of Rota maintains a 14-member panel.

Island of Saipan

- The Forestry Section donated 2,584 trees to communities, schools, and groups for park and roadside beautification. During the same planting activities, the U&CF members and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources/Division of Agriculture staff provided presentations, demonstrations, and technical assistance. These technology transfers were conducted during plant issuance and pickup from the forestry nursery
- Private and public schools (Koblerville Elementary School, Whispering Palm, Kagman High School, and Oleai Elementary) asked the Forestry Section to present proper planting and tree care, proper use of fertilizer, and nutritional facts. A total of 500 students participated in these presentations. The presenters were Mr. Stan Villagomez, Mr. Vic Guerrero, Mr. Ben Borja, Mr. Manny Pangelinan, and Mr. Ben Cepeda.
- Congressman William Torres continues to spearhead the Gualo Rai Roadside Beautification and the Youth Center Beautification/reforestation projects. A total of 800 plants worth \$3,000 were purchased and distributed to these projects.

Island of Tinian

- Tinian Urban Forestry Staff facilitated and monitored the planting along the Broadway Roadsides. This project will continue to be upgraded and improved using natural resources (cultural and ornamental trees) as buffers and as roadside beautification. School students volunteered during planting activities.
- Tinian Urban Forestry Staff continued to facilitate and monitor the planting activities at the Suicide Cliff Historic Park.
- The local government donated to and supported the forestry program by maintaining various planting projects throughout the funded year. They donated their equipment's fuel and operators as matching costs throughout the year.
- The Boy Scouts of America planted 20 flame trees (*Delonix regia*) around the Tinian Community Center.

This group is one of many youth groups participating in various beautification projects every year.

Island of Rota

- Rota public and private schools participated in planting activities (Arbor Month). The schools planned for each project, with the students and teachers participating in beautifying their areas. Approximately 875 seedlings of 37 varieties were planted during Arbor Month.
- The Shoreline Beautification Project was coordinated between the Filipino Association and the Forestry Department. This project included procurement and planting of seedlings to beautify adopted areas and to stabilize sandy soils. During several weekend planting events, members of the association planted approximately 200 seedlings.

Statistical Highlights

Total number of communities: 39
Number of participating communities: 39
Number of sustained communities: 12
Number of technical assists to communities: 17
Number of assistance in developmental: 7
Number of technical assists in formative: 3
Number of training hours provided: 500
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 150
Number of trees planted: 17,000

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Republic of Palau

Program Overview

The U&CF Program in Palau has expanded and matured over the past few years. Public participation has increased, with many partners contributing valuable technical and financial resources. Federal funding facilitates the maintenance of the coordinator position, activities of the U&CF Advisory Council, volunteer coordination, and continued work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in our 5-year strategic plan, which was updated in FY 2002.

The U&CF Council

Palau's U&CF Advisory Council is composed of 12 members from a wide range of organizations. The council has been instrumental in establishing a sustainable U&CF Program and steering projects and priorities toward accomplishment of the 5-year strategic plan.

Volunteer Program

Pua Michael, the Palau U&CF volunteer coordinator, coordinates with project managers to get volunteers to

work on projects. She also helps the U&CF coordinator monitor ongoing U&CF projects, keeps accounting of files for U&CF projects, and contacts project managers for submission of quarterly reports. In addition, she helps write reports and publicize U&CF programs to different states in Palau, legislators, and other organizations.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 9
Number of technical assists to communities: 11
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 440

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Region 6

Pacific Northwest Region

Program Overview

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in the Pacific Northwest Region provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to a variety of partners, including State, county, municipal, and tribal governments, as well as nonprofits, universities, public schools, and individuals. Oregon and Washington State comprise the region, which includes 25 million acres of National Forest System lands. The USDA Forest Service regional staff is one half-time position. The Oregon Department of Forestry and Washington State Department of Natural Resources deliver U&CF programs funded by the USDA Forest Service, which include technical assistance, Arbor Day celebrations, community grants, the Tree City USA program, and educational opportunities. The USDA Forest Service-funded community grants offered by both States are highly competitive, and the available funding is much less than the need. Technical assistance provided by the State urban forestry staff is critical for inner cities, small communities, nonprofits, and other partners. Emphasis for the program is on building local capacity.

The U&CF Program is linked to many of the critical issues in the Pacific Northwest, such as salmon recovery; livable cities, communities, and neighborhoods; clean air and water; and economic recovery. Trees are part of the economic development strategies for beautifying downtowns and creating business districts where people will linger and shop. Dr. Kathleen Wolf at the University of Washington has found that in Seattle, and in large cities in other States, survey participants are willing to pay 11 percent more for products in landscaped business districts vs. those with no trees. The USDA Forest Service funded this research through the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

More than 62 percent of the cities and communities in Oregon and Washington are participating in the U&CF Program, and the program has generated more than 18,000 hours of volunteer time. Friends of Trees, an



award-winning nonprofit organization, has planted more than 230,000 trees in the five-county Portland, OR, metro area (which includes Washington State). The organization trains volunteers who then help additional people understand the values and benefits of trees and greenspaces.

Program Accomplishments

In 1996, Oregon and Washington started the Community Trees Conference, and in fiscal year (FY) 2002 the sixth conference was held in Idaho, coordinated by the Oregon Urban Forester. The conference is a joint effort among Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and is supported by the USDA Forest Service. Held every 2 years, the Community Trees Conference brings speakers and participants from beyond the above-named States, and is aimed at professionals and citizens with an interest in community trees and forests. In FY 2002, Oregon and Washington, with support from the USDA Forest Service, partnered with ISA to present the Tree Academy, a series of classes for arborists at the ISA Conference in Seattle. Oregon, Washington, and the USDA Forest Service worked across State and bureaucratic lines to produce three information brochures about U&CF in general and how to access the program in each State. Matching folders were created to hold materials for sending out in response to requests and at conferences.

Oregon

Program Overview

The mission of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Assistance Program is to help Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in urban forests. Primary U&CF issues in Oregon are growth management, urban-rural interface challenges, the need to develop comprehensive community forestry programs in smaller communities, and the constraints caused by limited municipal funding for city and community services. Funding for the ODF U&CF Assistance Program is from the USDA Forest Service. A staff of three professional urban foresters provides leadership and assistance to Oregon cities, communities, and organizations.

Program Accomplishments

- ODF's staff assisted builder Kevin Rea and the Village Wiestoria project, a 42-unit, mixed-use, residential development near Bend, OR. ODF helped Rea retain large trees on the site, and then used the site to develop an 11-minute educational video to show builders and developers how their investment can be enhanced through trees. Rea won an excellence award from the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of Homebuilders for his efforts.
- Friends of Trees, an award-winning, nonprofit, tree-planting organization in the Portland metro area, used ODF/USDA Forest Service grant funds to develop a youth tree corps program to provide summer jobs in urban forestry for at-risk youth.
- ODF hosted a meeting of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council in Portland. A tour was provided to highlight inner-city projects in northeast Portland, urbanization and growth management issues in Wilsonville, and small community challenges in McMinnville.

The U&CF Council

The State's U&CF Advisory Council is Oregon Community Trees (OCT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a board of directors encompassing municipal, volunteer, community, and business interests. This year, OCT hosted its annual urban forestry conference attended by 100 people, conducted an annual awards program, maintained a Web site (<http://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org>), and promoted urban forestry events and activities.

Volunteer Program

In Oregon, 5 nonprofit volunteer tree-planting groups and 39 volunteer tree boards and commissions receive technical, financial, and educational assistance and organizational development advice from the ODF staff.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 147
Number of technical assists to communities: 518
Number of training hours provided: 3,938
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 600
Number of trees planted (estimated): 40,000
(Estimated from 37 Tree City USA communities only; does not include nonprofit sector, transportation agencies, utilities, etc.)

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Washington

Program Overview

The Washington U&CF Program mission is to educate citizens and decisionmakers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees. The mission includes helping local governments, citizen groups, and volunteers plant and sustain healthy trees where people live and work in Washington. The primary community forestry issues are local government impacts from the Endangered Species Act, urban-rural interface challenges, the need to develop comprehensive community forestry programs, growth management, and constraints caused by decreased funding sources for municipal services. The U&CF Program is part of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Two professional urban foresters provide assistance to Washington communities and organizations. In FY 2002, only one of those positions was filled. Funding for the U&CF Program is from the USDA Forest Service.

Program Accomplishments

- WDNR initiated new, improved Arbor Day celebrations in FY 2002. A grant from BP Northwest Operations funded a Web site for educational and celebration materials. The program partnered with corporate sponsors to host the first Arbor Day awards banquet. The banquet honored 45 Tree City USA and 7 Tree Line USA recipients, as well as the State winner of the 5th grade Arbor Day Poster Contest.
- Fourteen communities, six nonprofits, and one university received WDNR community grants. Grants were awarded in the following four categories: (1) local program development, (2) tree planting, (3) education, and (4) tree maintenance. Because community grants are highly competitive, three U&CF grant writing workshops were held around the State to help first-time grant applicants learn how to write grant applications.
- University of Washington graduate students conducted a study of Washington's community forest. Upon completion, the three-phase study will provide a picture of the current state of Washington's community forest to help decisionmakers better manage urban trees and forests.
- To meet increasing requests east of Washington's Cascade Mountains, WDNR/USDA Forest Service funds were used to contract with the Spokane, WA, urban forester to provide technical assistance in smaller, eastside communities, where local urban forestry expertise is not available.

- The WDNR urban forestry staff partnered with the International Society of Arboriculture to host a Tree Academy as part of its 78th Conference and Trade Show in Seattle. The Tree Academy brought together arborists from around the world to learn about topics such as Tree Structure Mechanics, Plant Health Care, Tree Decay, Tree Appraisal, and Tree Worker Health Care.

The U&CF Council

The Washington Community Forestry Council advises the WDNR regarding urban and community forestry issues. The council includes members from a broad spectrum of stakeholder groups, including municipal, volunteer, community, and business interests. A key project for the council is the development of a public outreach and awareness campaign designed to educate local decisionmakers on the importance of trees in our cities and communities.

Volunteer Program

Washington has 5 nonprofit volunteer tree-planting and restoration groups, 2 tree advocacy groups, and 35 volunteer tree boards and commissions. The WDNR staff provides technical, financial, and educational assistance, as well as organizational development advice.

Statistical Information

Number of participating communities: 228
Number of technical assists to communities: 720
Number of training hours provided: 2,700
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,025
Number of Tree City USA communities: 45
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 10
Number of Tree Line USA utilities: 7

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Region 8 Southern Region

The following report highlights the accomplishment of the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Assistance Program, delivered in partnership with the 13 State forestry agencies in the South.

Fiscal year (FY) 2002 was a very successful and challenging year. Federal funding, combined with State and local matching funds, has resulted in an estimated \$17 million worth of activities directly related to the program, including approximately 400 grants to communities and partner organizations.

The U&CF Program in the South was delivered under a set of guiding principles and with regionwide emphasis areas. Developed by the USDA Forest Service and the urban coordinators of the Southern Group of State Foresters, these guiding principles include:

- Recognizing urban forests as valuable and essential resources that benefits all citizens. The increased urbanization of all Southern States is creating opportunities for urban forests to improve the economic, environmental, and social quality of life in towns and cities.
- Acknowledging State forestry agencies as essential to successful urban forestry programs. They possess the unique and qualifying ability to deliver State-supported urban forestry program assistance. This ability is deeply rooted within the success of each State agency's traditional forestry program. State urban forestry programs are an extension of traditional forestry programs in that they promote the scientific and sustained management of our urban forests for human benefit.
- Assuring the urban forestry program provides equal access and equal opportunity for all segments of the population.
- Addressing common emerging local and regional issues on a multi-State or regional basis. It is preferred that States cooperate and coordinate with other groups and organizations.
- Recognizing the unique urban forestry needs of each State and working with the State-Federal partnership. The combined resources of the USDA Forest Service and the 13 Southern States can develop new solutions to common problems and serve as models for State action.
- Accepting the responsibility of using Federal funding for U&CF. Federal funds should be used in the most cost-effective manner to achieve the goals of the State's strategic plan for urban forestry.

The regional emphasis areas that have been guiding the program direction include:

- Emerging Issues Related to Urban Land Use. Land use change is generally the result of urbanization into forest and agricultural land along the urban fringe or in the rural countryside. This urbanization can result in changes in forest ownerships, fragmentation, challenges to forest management,

changes to public values and perceptions, loss in forest cover, and subsequent changes to environmental quality. Working through U&CF, communities have an opportunity to address growth management issues in the context of natural resources and through the employment of technology, such as remote sensing and computer-aided mapping. With this technology, communities can better understand how and why their natural systems are changing, and how local public policy could guide land use change and development in ecologically sustainable ways.

- Support of State Urban Forest Councils and Nonprofit Organizations. A community that owns its urban forest takes care of its urban forest.

Successes over the years have demonstrated the benefits of having nonprofit organizations participating in U&CF programs. These groups influence and deliver programs at the local level, yet still need technical and program information and assistance from State forestry agencies, including support in building the capacities of their organizations. State urban forest councils have been providing a substantial base of support for State U&CF programs, including their role in expanding program delivery. Efforts to build state-wide, self-sufficient capacity of nonprofit organizations and State urban forest councils will result in the ultimate strengthening of State U&CF programs. In FY 2002, Southern State urban forestry council representatives established the Southern Urban Forest Cooperative. They compiled a detailed contact list and identified issues to address in FY 2003.

- State U&CF Strategic Planning. State U&CF strategic plans are valuable tools in delivering USDA Forest Service/State U&CF programs. These plans provide statewide direction for the program, and engage the public in a process, which increases awareness and participation in U&CF. These plans also provide an opportunity for the States to monitor and measure program results. To be used as a valuable leadership tool, these plans should be updated every 5 years and incorporated into routine program activities. Several of the Southern States have requested the U&CF staff to provide oversight to their strategic planning workshops.
- Financial Assistance through the U&CF Assistance Program. The U&CF Grant Program has been ongoing for 11 years, a length of time that provides an opportunity to evaluate the program's effectiveness in terms of program intent, the development of State and local capacity, and the improvement of urban forest resources, management, awareness, etc. Part of the evaluation should include program outreach, participation by nontraditional populations, relevancy and effectiveness of grants, and effectiveness of State delivery.
- Communicating Program Successes. U&CF is a successful State and USDA Forest Service program. Communicating its accomplishments will help

improve public perception of forestry in general, and will help build continued support for U&CF at the local, State, and Federal levels.

- U&CF Technology and Training. The availability of tools, information and technology, and continuing education and training supports U&CF Program development at all levels. Web-based technology transfer provides immediate and interactive opportunities for technological support and distant learning. Many emerging opportunities are available for expanded and cost-effective technology transfer and programs in U&CF, using Web-based technologies, among others.

Regionwide, State, and Title VIII projects that are being conducted and completed within these emphasis areas are highlighted within this report. Some of the regionwide activities include technology training for the southern urban forestry coordinators and extension foresters; the addition of a USDA Forest Service urban forestry trainee; urban forestry technical assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Hurricane Lilli storm damage tree assessment; enhancement of the Southern Region Urban Forestry Web site; ecosystem modeling in Houston, using the Urban Forest Effect Model (UFORE) analysis model; development of a living memorial program in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks; and continuation of the American Forests City Green projects.

Although the cost for emergency wildfire suppression in the western regions delayed funding for regional emphasis projects, the following projects were eventually

funded for completion by the end of FY 2004:

- Tree Cops: Making Trees Part of the Solution, Not the Problem (Virginia Community College System and Virginia Tech)
- The Southeastern Natural Resource Leadership Institute (University of Virginia)
- Making Our Urban Forests Safer for People: A Homeowners Guide (Alabama Cooperative Extension System)
- Research Financial Mechanisms for Sustainable Urban Forests (The Hammond Tree Foundation)
- Create a Statewide Green Infrastructure Network (The Conservation Fund, Arlington, VA)
- Geo-Referenced Database and Mapping System (USDA Forest Service, R-8)
- The Influence of State U&CF programs on Commercial and Consulting Arboricultural Firms in the Thirteen Southern States: An Econometric Impact Analysis (Clemson University)
- Determining Urban vs. Rural Effects on Current and Future Tree Species Composition of Two Known Forests in the Louisville Area (University of Louisville)

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 2,508

Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 1,782

Number of hours of volunteer assistance generated: 32,486

Number of Tree City USA communities: 588

Alabama

Program Overview

During the FYs 1991 to 1998, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) was the lead agency in carrying out the State's U&CF Program. Emphasis was placed on developing program capacity, increasing professionalism, and enhancing volunteers and new partnerships. As a result, the State has witnessed the emergence of 115 legally constituted municipal urban forestry programs, an increased hiring of city foresters and arborists, a growing urban forestry-related private sector, and a growing nonprofit urban forestry sector. Many of these urban forestry programs and efforts can attribute their growth and development to State and Federal assistance. A historic agreement was signed in 1999, which greatly expanded Alabama's U&CF Program capability. Auburn University (AU), AFC, Alabama Urban Forestry Association (AUFA), and the USDA Forest Service agreed to a new partnership to coordinate the resources of each group in carrying out the U&CF Program. In the agreement, AU has the responsibility for statewide leadership and delivery of the program with support from the other partners. The AFC agreed to an Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA) that assigns the State's U&CF Program coordinator to AU. This position remains an AFC employee, but will be supervised and funded by AU. The volunteer/partnership position operates out of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The position is an AU employee, supervised and funded by the university. The other partner groups and agencies will cooperate and assist AU in carrying out the State's U&CF Program.

Program Accomplishments

As part of this project, the City of Fairhope will perform an inventory of trees with a spatial map locating where new trees are needed. The data will be used to develop

a comprehensive master tree-planting plan. This process will use new technologies (i.e., global positioning system mapping), while providing educational opportunities for students majoring in geography at the University of North Alabama. A professional landscape designer will be contracted to develop the tree-planting scheme. The designs and layouts of trails and walkways will focus on new tree plantings and existing old trees to enhance opportunities for visitors to learn about the value of urban trees. Data collected and produced by the University of North Alabama will be used to produce a digital map with a complete database on each tree.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 153
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 166
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,912
Number of trees planted: 5,000
Number of Tree City USA communities: 86

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Arkansas

Program Overview

The U&CF Program is designed to provide communities, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions with the necessary tools, information, and technology to be good stewards of the urban and community forest. Engaging these groups helps build the capacity of the program and encourages urban forestry at the local level. To meet the growing demand for technical assistance, the Arkansas Forestry Commission provides assistance through urban forestry representatives from the 11 districts. These representatives work closely with their communities, schools, and various organizations to increase public awareness of the value of urban trees and improve standards for tree planning, planting, and care.

Program Accomplishments

In the Arkansas Delta Region, the Arkansas Forestry Commission began a new partnership with the Delta Research Design Center (DRDC), a nonprofit outreach office of the University of Arkansas Community Design Center.

The DRDC focuses on creating plans for sustainable development throughout the Arkansas Delta. Local residents and communities are encouraged to incorporate a participatory approach to comprehensive planning

that includes environmentally sound development policies coupled with economic and social improvements.

The AFC participated in the final presentation to the community and discussed programs such as Tree City USA, a program the community can understand and embrace to address community forestry issues and citizen involvement.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 279
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 347
Number of training hours provided: 260
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,508
Number of trees planted: 5,080
Number of Tree City USA communities: 15

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Florida

Program Overview

The U&CF Program is designed to educate the public on the full benefits of well-managed urban forests. The goals of the strategic plan created by the Division of Forestry and the Florida Urban Forestry Council include: promoting the active involvement of citizen groups and volunteers; fostering professionalism; promoting best practices in tree care, production, and management; seeking legislation and funding to support urban forestry programs; encouraging research; and promoting fire safety.

Program Accomplishments

The purpose of the Venetian Waterway Park in Venice, FL, is to build a sustainable resource for public enjoyment that incorporates the character of the area and its natural resources, as well as the widely diverse interests of the communities that provides recreational, environmental, historical, and cultural perspectives, and establishes an eloquent legacy for generations to come. At this time 2-1/2 miles of a 10-foot-wide, universally accessible path have been installed. A Volunteer Trailblazer program is under way, and more than 3,500 hours of volunteer participation have been logged. Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), a subsidiary of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, has raised more than \$3.2 million in donations toward the park. The program has hired a grants coordinator, using funding from the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Division of Forestry U&CF Grant Program. The grants coordinator has secured nearly \$1 million in grants, garnered excellent press coverage for the Venice Waterway Park, produced a full-color donor brochure, and published a quarterly newsletter.

One section of the trail has been complemented with lighting and the installation of a butterfly garden.

Two other sections have secured grants from the Recreational Trail Program. VABI also received a \$10,000 grant to remove exotic Brazilian pepper on one section of the trail. Funding has been secured for three separate segments of the trail for 3 years from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program is funding improvements such as a boardwalk, fishing pier, and picnic facility, as well as nature, bicycle, pedestrian, and exercise trails. The Land and Water Conservation Fund and Sarasota County jointly funded installing a canoe launch and a 100-person picnic shelter at one end of the trail near Caspersen Beach. The Venice High School Interact Club, the Boy Scouts, and the Leadership Sarasota Class of 2001 have all adopted projects along the Venetian Waterway Park. During the first annual Volunteer Trailblazers banquet, the program recognized many individuals for their continued efforts. Once completed, the trail is expected to serve more than 180,000 people annually.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 228
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 66
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,300
Number of trees planted: 20,599
Number of Tree City USA communities: 127

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Georgia

Program Overview

The U&CF Program provides communities, large and small, with resources to help citizens become more aware and appreciate the benefits of a healthy and sustainable urban and community forest. The 5-year plan for Georgia's U&CF Program identifies six key issues that will be addressed through goals and activities in FY 2000 through FY 2004. Key issues include (1) reducing tree loss and conserving essential green space, (2) understanding the resource value of trees, (3) advocating proper tree maintenance, (4) understanding and adopting local ordinances that regulate land development, (5) incorporating professional expertise to promote sustainable urban forestry programs, and (6) designing infrastructure with urban forestry in mind. By addressing these statewide issues, the U&CF Program is helping to build local capacity and form vital cities through healthy and sustainable urban forests.

Program Accomplishments

The "Terrific Trees: Building Partnerships for Increased Awareness of the Benefits of Trees" project of Sandy Springs/North Fulton County, GA, is expanding community outreach in tree education to audiences not typically served by current programs and building existing school and community programs and partnerships. The Terrific Trees program of Keep Sandy Springs/North Fulton Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Georgia Beautiful, provides more than 60 tree education

and Arbor Day programs for 22 North Fulton schools, serving nearly 3,000 students. In addition, this organization conducts outreach efforts to educate their target audience—real estate agents—about the value of trees in this heavily populated and developed area within the city limits of Atlanta. Using a presentation that emphasizes tree benefits to real estate agents and new homeowners, they have been engaging agents from Harry Norman Realtor groups in Buckhead and Sandy Springs to be the "ambassadors" that carry the message of the value of trees. Workshops for homeowner associations on the benefits of trees are being promoted through Harry Norman Realtors.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 425
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 360
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 8,540
Number of Tree City USA communities: 96

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Kentucky

Program Overview

The Kentucky Division of Forestry continued to expand its urban forestry program throughout the commonwealth. Perhaps the most important aspect of this program is the U&CF Grant Program. The number of grant applications reached an all-time high in FY 2002, nearly double the amount from a couple years ago. With this, the quality of applications continues to improve, and the division has developed relationships with new partners. In FY 2002, 25 grants were awarded. The impact that they have made, and will continue to make, is impressive. In FY 2002, the division's urban forestry program held urban forestry training for its employees, gained two new Tree City USA communities, worked on tree-planting programs with volunteers, and had a highly successful Arbor Day. The success of urban forestry in Kentucky can be seen in the tree boards and councils that continue to grow across the commonwealth.

Program Accomplishments

In the past several years, the Northern Kentucky Urban Forestry Council has accomplished much, including the work required to hire an executive director. To prepare for the director's arrival in January 2003, the council had much work to do in FY 2002 to make a paid director a reality. The council completed an assessment of Boone County, one of the

three counties its program reaches. Because Northern Kentucky is an extension of southern Cincinnati, the impact of monitoring the urban forest is paramount. The study will serve as means to educate decision-makers and citizens, encourage new land development policies, and potentially revise current zoning. It is hoped that the study will eventually continue to the neighboring two counties, so that this growing area is a success story for the urban forest. Also in FY 2002, the council established a small grants program, provided arborist training for public works employees, and worked with newly established tree boards.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 145
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 145
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 400
Number of Tree City USA communities: 28

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Louisiana

Program Overview

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's U&CF Program provides technical information to all communities and organizations in Louisiana requesting assistance. The Louisiana Urban Forestry Council serves as an advisory body to the department on community forestry issues. The council also is the main author of the State strategic plan for community forestry activity and uses this document as a road map to develop sound, long-lasting community forestry projects and programs across the State. The strategic plan has five broad goals: (1) create financial stability, (2) continue implementation of a comprehensive public relations plan, (3) continue high-quality educational programs, (4) assist in improvement and delivery of the Federal U&CF Grant Program, and (5) promote the elements of the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program.

Program Accomplishments

The Second Annual Tree School in Metairie, Jefferson Parish, LA, promoted the importance of formal community tree management programs to local community leaders in Jefferson Parish and other areas of Metropolitan New Orleans. On April 18, 2002, Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful hosted the Second Annual Tree School event, which attracted nearly 275 attendees from around the State. The 1-day, free-of-charge educational tree session touted nationally known speakers such as Dr. Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington; Dr. Edward Gilman, University of Florida; Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia; and Dr. Neil Odenwald, Louisiana State University. The entire program was

funded through private and corporate donations. Attendees included arborists and urban foresters, Louisiana Urban Forestry Council members, local government leaders, and concerned citizens. The day's highlights included technical tree care information, including basic tree biology, protecting trees during construction, tree values to local economies, and maintaining newly planted trees. The program again in FY 2002 awarded continuing education credits from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The Jefferson Parish Council has been so impressed with the Tree School that they adopted a resolution proclaiming Thursday, April 18, 2002, as official "Tree School Day" in Jefferson Parish.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 136
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 49
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 473
Number of trees planted: 911
Number of Tree City USA communities: 26

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Mississippi

Program Overview

Urban forest management is a key to providing quality of life for Mississippians. The urban forest provides economic, environmental, social, and health benefits. Urban forestry programs provide a means for managing urban natural resources to maximize those benefits. Of Mississippi's 2.8 million people, roughly 47 percent live in urban areas. There are a large number of small communities in the State, which creates a special challenge in assuring high-quality urban and community forest management. It is difficult to make all the communities aware of the importance of U&CF, and many do not have the financial means to support their own programs. Working with volunteers has become very important in reaching the public in those communities.

Program Accomplishments

The Lake Hazle Trails project in Hazlehurst, MS, is designed to develop a series of trails at Lake Hazle that will be located through the trees and bordered by fragrant and beautiful plants. Seating areas at designated intervals will culminate at a building overlooking Lake Hazle, with a community room and outdoor classroom for the children. Trails will be available to all, including the visually and physically challenged residents of the city and county. They will use touch-tone panels, which identify the shape of the

leaves of the trees and describe to the visually challenged the appearance and the use of the wood. Approximately 50 species of trees will be labeled, along with an interpretative booklet to be made available at a kiosk to be installed at the beginning of the trail. To accommodate the hundreds of visually impaired citizens of the community, touch-tone panels will be installed along the trail, together with audible descriptions of the tree species. This project will greatly enhance the quality of life for all residents, regardless of age or physical capability.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 94
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 113
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,070
Number of Tree City USA communities: 26

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North Carolina

Program Overview

North Carolina continues to be affected by rapid urban growth and an accompanying sprawl development pattern. Local governments continue to develop and strengthen policies to help direct the management of depleting forest canopies through tree conservation ordinances; riparian buffer regulations; and various planning, zoning, and development policies. Strong partnerships with the North Carolina Urban Forest Council, Cooperative Extension Service, and many other statewide and community-based agencies continue.

Program Accomplishments

The Tree Masters course was a comprehensive 12-hour curriculum using the Plant Health Care resource materials from the International Society of Arboriculture. Committee members from the Master Gardener Volunteer Program attended two or more of the 4-week series. During February 2002, the Tree Masters grant provided funding to hold two successful community tree care workshops for green industry professionals. More than 145 professionals attended the training, with 55 participating in the Hazard Tree Field Day. The grant proposal allocated funding for a program assistant position to handle requests by schools for tree planting, identifying trees on nature trails and maintaining existing tree plantings in two parks. Through the program assistant's efforts, 40 trees were planted on six school campuses.

The Cooperative Extension Service introduced the Trees of Strength Program in FY 2001, and, as a result of the September 11 tragedy in New York City, it evolved into a statewide initiative in FY 2002. Under this program, the partnership was able to market this effort and sponsor two tree-planting events. Six trees were planted with Duke Power Company at Petree Elementary in Winston-Salem. A formal ceremony and tree planting were held in Tanglewood Arboretum to honor law enforcement and firefighting personnel in the United States. The representatives received framed certificates and assisted with the planting of a memorial oak tree to the victims of September 11, 2001. The North Carolina School of the Arts received a Tree Stewardship certificate at the county awards program for saving a 100-year-old white oak from removal slated in the college expansion project. The Treasured Tree Program committee sent a letter and educational materials to the school's chancellor in the effort to save the tree.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 155
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 131
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 77
Number of Tree City USA communities: 51

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Oklahoma

Program Overview

Oklahoma's Urban Forestry Program provides communities and professionals with the most advanced technical information available. It provides guidance in establishing long-range urban forestry programs both in municipalities and for volunteer/nonprofit organizations. Each local forestry program in Oklahoma has its own set of circumstances and special needs. Forestry Services continues to provide support to all communities interested in building or developing programs. The program's continued assistance helps to monitor progress and improvements in the overall health and well being of trees in those communities. It is a slow process, but as more people learn what it takes to keep trees alive and healthy, the program sees a greater number of successful tree-planting projects. As a result, communities are investing more in tree planting, maintenance, and local community forestry programs. The program's technical support, combined with funding through grant programs, is providing communities with seed money to build and expand their local programs much more quickly than would otherwise be possible. The Urban Forestry Program will continue to implement the 5-year urban forestry strategic plan. Forestry Services will continue to cooperate with the State U&CF Council and consider its advice in developing programs.

Program Accomplishments

As Oklahoma approaches its centennial celebration of statehood, The Tree Bank Foundation will encourage its partners and statewide volunteer network to begin planning for the establishment of Centennial Tree

Groves throughout Oklahoma communities. During the settlement of Oklahoma, many trees were cleared but also planted as a result of various land runs. The Tree Bank will help communities establish local educational programs to help highlight the important role trees have played in the settlement of the Oklahoma Territory. Historic and special trees will be highlighted, and educational efforts addressing the many values and benefits of community trees will move forward. The Tree Bank Foundation has recently secured endorsement of the Statewide Centennial Coordination Committee for this phase of Oklahoma's Centennial Celebration. For the next several years, the committee will also be traveling the State, helping communities, town, and cities begin the planning process for establishing Centennial Tree Groves on public lands.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 143
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 119
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,472
Number of Tree City USA communities: 21

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South Carolina

Program Overview

The U&CF Program in South Carolina provides communities of all sizes with technical assistance to help citizens become more aware and appreciative of the benefits of a healthy and sustainable community forest. South Carolina's U&CF 5-year strategic plan identifies 11 key issues that will be addressed through action items from FY 2001 through FY 2005. These issues include, but are not limited, reducing tree loss and conserving essential green space; advocating proper tree maintenance, removal, replacement, and protection; understanding and adopting local ordinances that regulate land development; incorporating professional expertise to promote sustainable community forestry programs; and designing public areas and rights-of-way with trees in mind. By addressing these statewide issues, the U&CF Program is helping to build local capacity and form vital partnerships in communities through healthy and sustainable urban forests.

Program Accomplishments

Accomplishments for FY 2002 include the establishment of a functional living buffer using native plant material for the community to observe and emulate, the publication of a citizens 'how-to' booklet, *Backyard Buffers for the SC Lowcountry*, and the creation of an educational Web site. The buffer plan, plant list, and the importance of river buffers can be found at <http://www.co.beaufort.sc.us/planning/riverbuffer/workingbuffer>.

The Beaufort County Model River Buffer Demonstration will create a project adjacent to the county's government complex that will demonstrate river buffer standards. This demonstration project will also educate the community on the aesthetic, economic, and functional values of forested, vegetated buffers along the waterways.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 151
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 80
Number of training hours provided: 10,495
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 206
Number of trees planted: 537
Number of Tree City USA communities: 31

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Tennessee

Program Overview

The Tennessee U&CF Program celebrated continued success in FY 2002 in a number of areas. These include increases in Tree City USA and Tree Line USA programs, completing the State Champion Tree list, revitalizing the ReLeaf project, and continuing the Arbor Day Poster Contest. Additional successes were achieved by assisting the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, especially in arboretum certification; sponsoring the State urban forestry conference; and administering the pass-through grants. These activities and accomplishments occurred with funding assistance from the USDA Forest Service.

Program Accomplishments

In FY 2001, East Tennessee State University (ETSU) became interested in participating in the State arboretum certification program. Arboretum Certification is a partnership program between the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, and the State Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division. After reviewing the requirements and making certain the university met them, ETSU submitted its application in the spring of 2002. After representatives of the partnership inspected the campus, ETSU was approved for level 4 status, which means it has 120 species labeled, has a map and list of the trees for self-guided tours, sponsors an arboretum newsletter, and has staff or volunteers available to

conduct tours when requested. ETSU Arboretum has gone beyond the requirements to include labeling additional trees, establishing the nonprofit group Friends of the ETSU Arboretum, providing an announcement about the arboretum to area high schools, developing a Web page, and installing interpretive signs. It is currently in the process of developing an audiotape for self-guided tours that can be checked out of the campus library. Dedication of the ETSU Arboretum was listed in the State highlights for Tennessee in the May 2, 2002, edition of USA Today.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 51
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 60
Number of training hours provided: 36 (estimate)
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 331
Number of trees planted: 1,223 (Just trees from grants)
Number of Tree City USA communities: 28

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Texas

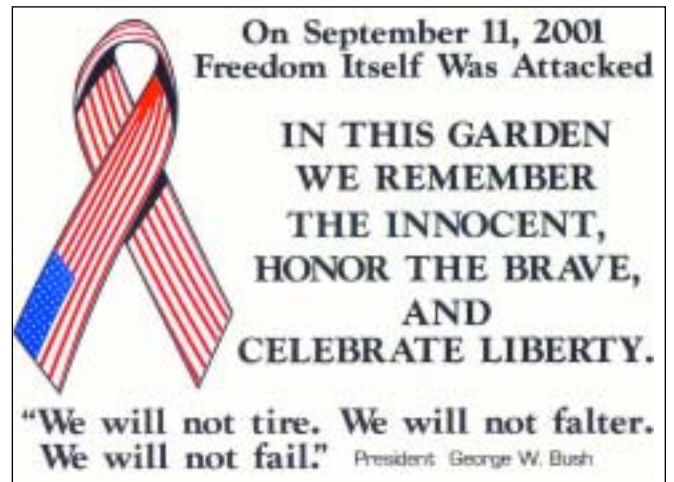
Program Overview

Texas is one of the most rapidly urbanizing States in America. Currently, more than 8 out of 20 Texans live in urban areas and the State's population is expected to reach 35 million within 25 years, with most of this growth occurring in and around large urban centers. The Texas Forest Service (TFS) has placed staff urban foresters in most of these cities to serve as the catalysts that will move communities along the continuum from nonparticipatory to self-sustaining community forestry programs.

Many of the resource and tree problems at the local level have cumulative effects that cross community boundaries. Air pollution, flooding, and the loss of open space are major landscape-scale themes that resource managers at the community level struggle to deal with effectively. The scale of urban forestry expertise, tools, and solutions must also grow to address these issues across the traditional community boundaries. The TFS strives to solve these complex problems by providing leadership in the management of natural resources in and around urban centers.

Program Accomplishments

Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, in partnership with the Texas Forest Service, decided to expand on the Keep America Beautiful idea of a "Liberty Garden." The original idea was to plant a garden in each community to honor the firefighters and police officers who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. In Nacogdoches County, the 2 organizations decided to plant a garden at all 5 fire stations in the city and at all 19 volunteer fire departments in the county, plus 1 large tree garden in a city park near the police department. Dozens of volunteers planted hundreds of trees and thousands of flowering bulbs at these various locations. A dedication ceremony was held at the main garden with local officials, firefighters, police officers, and citizens attending. This project received the 2002 Community



Forestry Award for Civic Organizations, and Keep America Beautiful has also recognized this project and is publicizing it nationwide.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 458
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 103
Number of training hours provided: 218.5
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 11,543
Number of Tree City USA communities: 46

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Virginia

Program Overview

In Virginia, the U&CF Program operates with minimal staffing and State budget support. Therefore, the program is delivered with an approach that relies on delivering U&CF grants, providing educational opportunities, and developing strategic partnerships. Virginia is a very diverse State with widely varying needs depending on geographic region and population density. The key issues and level of urban forestry program sophistication are markedly different in western and southern Virginia compared to the population centers in Tidewater, Richmond, and Northern Virginia. In the more highly populated regions, urban forestry programs are at the local level. The key issues relating to urban forestry in Virginia are protecting and enhancing open space in rapidly urbanizing areas, improving tree care and maintenance in all communities, providing for increased tree cover in urban centers, developing and/or strengthening local U&CF programs (especially in the west and south of the State), providing urban forestry training at the community college and university levels, and generating more financial support for U&CF programs at the State and local levels.

To address those issues, the Department of Forestry uses the U&CF Grant Program as its primary tool in delivering related assistance. The program is aggressively promoted and the funding used to support small, very focused grants that meet local needs. The grants are also used to develop strategic partnerships that will help the agency enhance its program delivery. Examples of such partnerships include Trees Virginia (Virginia Urban Forest Council), Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, the Virginia Professional Horticulture Conference, selected community colleges, and various land trusts. Through these partnerships, the Department of Forestry is able to provide additional community outreach, public education, and professional training. The agency has also developed a good internal training program for U&CF.

Program Accomplishments

The Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center worked with the local project partners to develop a comprehensive greenway master plan. The center's efforts involved significant input from local citizenry coordinated by FOLAR (Friends of the Lower Appomattox River). In addition, the project generated media materials that showcased the natural, scenic, recreational, and historic assets of the Appomattox River corridor. A media tour of the area involved local government officials, State agency representatives, local interest groups, and a representative from the local congressman's office. The project generated a video that was aired twice on State public television accompanied by interviews of the project participants. It also generated an electronic media presentation that is being used by the Crater Planning District Commission to continue to develop project support.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 90
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 42
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 8,952
Number of Tree City USA communities: 38

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Region 10 Alaska Region

Program Overview

Alaska, with a population of 635,000, covers 571,951 square miles, making it the largest State geographically in the United States. Many residents of Alaska live in remote villages, inaccessible by road. The most significant challenge community forestry faces in Alaska is the sheer size of the State. Travel distances and time between destinations can be overwhelming. The cost of face-to-face visits with local government agencies can consume budgeted travel costs rapidly. Another challenge is the rapid growth rate in Alaska's largest population center. More than one-third of the State's residents live within the Municipality of Anchorage. The Anchorage area, surrounded by water and mountains on all sides, has limited growth opportunities. As population and development within the area expand, the competition for land use increases, and the need to manage urban forests and open spaces for the many benefits afforded to residents is more apparent than ever.

Program Accomplishments

In May 2002, for the first time, the Alaska Community Tree Steward Course was held in Wasilla. The 30-hour course was held 1 day a week for 5 weeks with a series of speakers covering the following topics: tree biology; soils and fertilization; selecting, planting, and caring for trees and shrubs; pruning; problem diagnosis; landscape design; and other urban forestry topics. Twelve people completed the course and agreed to donate 30 hours to community forestry projects in the Matanuska Susitna Valley area during the next year.

Alaska Community Forest Council

The 15-member Alaska Community Forest Council met regularly throughout the year, advising the division on program priorities and activities. Members reviewed

grant applications and made recommendations on funding projects. The council also placed displays and publications on tree planting and care at five nurseries in three towns. In addition to supporting the State program, members are valuable partners in local community forestry programs.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers continue to provide a significant amount of the program outputs for community forestry in Alaska. Several large projects commanded most of the volunteer time, which included maintaining the two millennium grove projects and Midtown Park in Anchorage. Numerous hours of time were also generated by the tree steward program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of communities assisted: 16
Number of training hours provided: 897
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 129
Number of trees planted: 49

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Northeastern Area

Program Overview

The 20 Northeast and Midwest States and the District of Columbia are home to nearly 43 percent of the Nation's population, 85 percent of which (102 million residents) live within 32 million acres of urban forests. The amount of the region's land classified as "urban" nearly tripled between 1950 and 1990. For many urban residents, the urban forest is the only forest they encounter.

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in the Northeastern Area encourages communities to appreciate and manage their forest resources through public involvement, commitment, and action. Working with State foresters and other partners, the program helps States and communities assess and monitor urban forest health and establish or restore urban green space, and it offers educational material, land-use planning, disaster response, and tree inventory and database management capabilities.

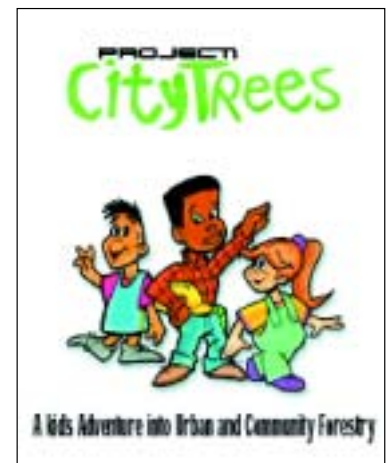
Program Accomplishments

The USDA Forest Service and its State partners assisted more than 5,200 communities in fiscal year (FY) 2002—37 percent of all cities and towns in the Northeast and Midwest. The Northeastern Area awarded 51 grants totaling more than \$7.5 million. State and local groups added \$12 million in funds or services, including nearly 1.6 million hours of training and volunteer labor for tree surveys, planting, and care. Another 40 grants worth \$3 million were postponed because funds were needed to battle catastrophic wildfires in the western United States.

After the terrible events of September 11, 2001, people sought fitting memorials to victims of the tragedy and ways to honor acts of heroism. Responding to many requests, the USDA Forest Service initiated the Living Memorials Project, which will help people create lasting "living memorials" to the victims of terrorism, their families, their communities, and the Nation. The U&CF Program provided leadership and funding for 33 living memorials in the New York City metropolitan area, southwestern Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. Technical assistance and new online tools at <http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net> will continue to help people evoke the life-affirming, healing power of trees, while creating healthier landscapes and healthier communities.

The Northeastern Area provided state-of-the-art technical assistance and training through its Centers for U&CF based in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. This year's projects included the following:

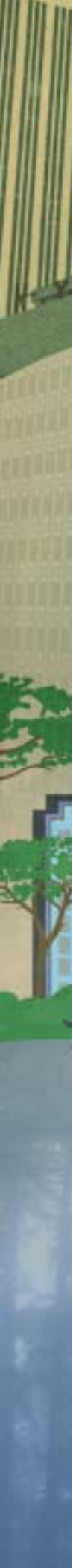
- Dialogue on Diversity helps natural resource managers connect with underserved communities, gaining more participation from residents and local businesses.



- Project City Trees introduces kindergarten-through-third-grade youngsters to fictional cartoon characters that teach urban natural resources concepts.
- Mobile Community Tree Inventory developed software that is now available on line. It uses personal data assistants (PDAs) to help managers quickly collect and analyze the condition of trees at the community scale.

The U&CF Program continued to revitalize communities in metropolitan and inner-city areas. Beyond the Title VIII projects detailed in this publication, key projects were completed in FY 2002 in the following cities:

- Philadelphia—USDA Forest Service staff, with support from Philadelphia's managing director, convened city, State, and Federal partners to develop green neighborhood projects.
- Yonkers, NY—Local residents and churches planted and improved trees in two low-income neighborhoods as part of a series of "tree stewardship festivals" organized by Groundwork Yonkers.
- New York City—More than 1 million people visited an interactive Web site, <http://www.oasisnyc.net>, to learn how to identify and evaluate opportunities for tree planting and open space across the metropolitan region.
- Boston—EarthWorks Projects removed invasive plant species in the city's "urban wilds" parkland and worked with neighboring residents to plant 1,600 native trees and shrubs, enhancing biodiversity and erosion control and to instill greater "ownership" by the community.
- Springfield, MA—A citizen-based Neighborhood Tree Steward training program was established, providing residents in eight Enterprise neighborhoods with instruction and expertise resulting in their planting and maintaining more than 230 trees in the program's first year.

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- Syracuse, NY—Municipal staff and volunteers were trained to inventory, assess, and maintain trees in parks, resulting in a video to stimulate similar programs by Cooperative Extension organizations nationwide.
 - Baltimore, MD—The Parks and People Foundation completed a model action plan with Franklin Square Elementary School, including an outdoor classroom in which almost a full city block of impermeable black-topped surfaces are being removed and replaced with green space.
 - Madison, WI—The Urban Open Space Foundation engaged 60 community residents in efforts to restore 26 acres of newly conserved prairie and woodland spaces, called "Troy Gardens," in the heart of Madison's diverse Northside.
 - Davenport, IA—An inner-city park was established and trees planted and improved in LeClaire Heights, an area with many neglected vacant lots and open spaces.

- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN—The Twin Cities Tree Trust targeted 22 diverse neighborhoods in an effort to raise awareness and to plant and care for trees.
- District of Columbia—More than 500 volunteers completed a tree census using PDA technology. With neighborhood residents throughout the city, the GCA Casey Tree Endowment Fund counted and classified more than 100,000 trees and 15,000 planting spaces.

As efforts to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle continued in Chicago and New York City, a new outbreak was discovered in Jersey City, NJ. Another pest, the voracious emerald ash borer (EAB), led to a five-county quarantine around Detroit, an area that covers more than 2,000 square miles. Millions of dollars have been spent removing and replanting more than 7,000 trees in densely populated neighborhoods through projects such as Chicago GreenStreets and Trees New York. Cost estimates show these efforts will be dwarfed by the urgent need to halt the spread of EAB beyond its current confines over the next decade.

Connecticut

Program Overview

Connecticut is a highly urbanized State that is also heavily forested. According to the latest USDA Forest Service figures, 60 percent of the State is forested. At the same time, approximately 80 percent of Connecticut citizens live in urban or suburban environments. Thus, virtually all citizens of Connecticut live in close proximity to trees. The health and well-being of the urban forest is of concern to everyone in the State.

Program Accomplishments

During FY 2002, the small grants program, the America the Beautiful Program, offered funding to 33 projects. Among these projects was the inventory of trees on the historic East Haven Green, coupled with the publication of a guidebook that serves to call attention to the maintenance needs of these trees. It also funded the planting of more than 30 trees by various neighborhood groups in Bridgeport, Connecticut's largest city, and the planting of 15 trees in Sterling, along Connecticut's eastern border. Each of these projects addressed specific and different needs, yet were all very successful in promoting the goals and techniques of urban forestry. An America the Beautiful Grant funded the planting of 13 flowering trees on the grounds of the Artist Collective in Hartford, an inner city academy dedicated to the arts. Established programs, such as the Meskwaka Volunteer Training Program and the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut, continue to make substantial progress toward their goals of outreach and education. The Tree Wardens Academy held a very successful third year of instruction, with some 27 newly certified tree wardens completing the course of study and then passing the exam. While tree warden certification is not required for an individual to be appointed to that position, widespread certification of tree wardens is a goal of both the Urban and Community Forest Council and the Tree Wardens Association.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP), Division of Forestry hired Christina Stacey as seasonal research assistant to review the tree planting success of the America the Beautiful Grant Program. Christina researched all grants over the previous 5 years and identified 86 projects from 52 towns as tree planting projects. She then visited each of these towns and inspected the tree planting locations from these grants—1,864 trees total. Of these, 1,614 were still present and 1,370, or 73 percent of the original total, were found to be in good or better condition. Christina also studied the influence of various factors on the success of these planting projects, and had some very specific recommendations to pass on to the CT DEP and the Urban and Community Forest Council. Chief among the factors and recommendations was the importance of committed individuals and clearly defined goals.



Connecticut Lt. Governor Jodi Rell, City Forester John Kehoe, John Brodeur and Brian Cliff plant trees in Hartford, to commemorate the National Tree Trusts planing of 10 million trees.



Chris Donnelly, Connecticut Urban Forestry Coordinator discusses street tree inventory methods at a workshop in Norwalk.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 141
Number of communities assisted: 83
Number of Tree City USA communities: 10
Number of trees planted: 522
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 844
Number of hours of training provided: 3,775

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Delaware

Program Overview

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program assists Delaware's communities with the proper planning, management, and maintenance of trees, forested areas, and other natural resources. The protection of the State's community forest resources is essential as Delaware's communities continue to expand and grow.

Program Accomplishments

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program partnered with Kent County Parks and Recreation Department to relocate more than 125 trees from the former Taber State Forest Biomass Wood Utilization Study Area to several county-owned parks. The Delaware Forest Service staff provided technical assistance to support the successful transplanting of a mix of 4- to 6-inch-caliper native hardwood tree species, which improved tree cover within several Kent County communities.

The U&CF Program expanded its partnership with the historic community of Knollwood to assist the neighboring subdivision of Bancroft Heights. The subdivision was built in the early 1920s for the workers of the Citistee USA, Claymont, DE, plant. Both of these communities continue to suffer from urban blight. To improve the communities' appearances, New Castle County Housing, Inc., Citistee USA, and the U&CF Program continued to provide technical and financial support to redevelopment programs for both communities.

Through cooperative efforts of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Soil & Water—Non Point Source Pollution Program, the Delaware Forest Service will expand the total dollars offered through its annual subgrant program in urban and community forestry. To enhance services to Delaware communities, the U&CF Program will now be able to offer double the traditional amount of grant dollars to improve the State's urban and community forest resources. Within the 2002 U&CF grant packet, Delaware's community leaders will find several traditional grants for tree management and tree planting activities, and one new subgrant designed to improve water quality and address stormwater management issues in the State.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 68

Number of communities assisted: 68

Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 165

Number of Tree City USA communities: 15

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District of Columbia

Program Overview

For U&CF activities within the District of Columbia, FY 2002 was a year of significant progress, both in terms of forestry operations and visibility. Bolstered by a tremendous amount of support from Mayor Anthony A. Williams, the District's tree program was in the news and local television media several dozen times, and more than 10,000 residents, community groups, and others requested information or service regarding the District's trees.

Program Accomplishments

Within the District Department of Transportation, the Urban Forestry Administration is responsible for planting and caring for the District's 100,000-plus street trees. It is also the lead agency that provides advice and guidance to other city agencies, community groups, and others on tree and landscape issues districtwide. Some of the work and accomplishments of the administration in FY 2002 include the following:

- Passed a tree preservation ordinance that protects trees 18 inches and more in diameter on both public and private property throughout the district.
- Established the District Champion Trees Program, formed to identify and publish a list of large trees in the District of Columbia.
- Established the "Right Trees Right Place Program," an initiative undertaken with the local electric power utility, with the goal of removing damaged and disfigured trees located under power lines and replacing them with appropriate trees that will not interfere with overhead utilities.
- Planted more than 4,000 trees, pruned 15,000 trees, and removed more than 2,000 dead trees.

More than 500 trained volunteers participated in the largest volunteer street tree inventory in the country this year. The Casey Trees Endowment Fund, a nonprofit organization established in 2001, conducted the district-wide street tree inventory with the assistance of the Urban Forestry Administration, a grant from the USDA Forest Service, college interns in the



environmental science field, and professionals who guided the citizen volunteers and checked diligently for quality assurance of the data. This data is now the basis of the Urban Forestry Administration's new street tree inventory system.

Community Resources, Inc., continued its Street Tree Stewardship program this year with a funding boost from the District of Columbia State Forester through the U&CF Program and planted more than 100 trees in the Shaw neighborhood. The program teaches residents in lower income neighborhoods the value trees and greenery bring to the whole city. Since it began 3 years ago, the survival rate of the trees planted under the program has consistently been above 95 percent.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 11

Number of communities assisted: 10

Number of hours of training provided: 700

Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 30,000

Number of trees planted: 4,000

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Illinois

Program Overview

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forest Resources, U&CF Program helps communities and other units of local government develop or expand U&CF Programs; increase the awareness of urban forestry in Illinois; and plant, protect, and maintain trees in open spaces, green belts, parks, and residential developments. The Illinois U&CF Program helps communities and urban areas sustain the health and integrity of the forest resources in and around their communities. The IDNR works toward establishing and maintaining local community forestry programs by providing technical assistance, disseminating information, enhancing partnerships, and providing resources and recognition.

Program Accomplishments

Through the volunteer coordination provided contractually through the University of Illinois for Central and Northern Illinois, a new Regional U&CF Council was created in the south suburban area of Cook and surrounding counties. This council has served as a vehicle for providing technical assistance and educational training in the areas of tree risk management, new tree planting technologies, and tree and development concepts. The project was organized and conducted by Scott Bretthauer, extension specialist in urban forestry, the IDNR's contractual community forestry volunteer coordinator for Central and Northern Illinois.

The Springfield Urban Forestry Administration established the first ever Blue Ribbon Committee on U&CF. The committee's purpose was to review and provide recommendations on the future of U&CF in Illinois. The committee recommended that the core program be maintained, funding be provided for the U&CF Grant Program, dedicated U&CF staff be hired, and educational outreach on the important topics related to tree care continue to be provided.

Several new communities were reached through contractual support of Southern Illinois University. A tree seedling distribution program was used to initiate conversation with communities that typically had not requested or received community forestry assistance. This outreach program worked with 22 new communities. These communities received nearly 350 seedlings for planting on public property. Once communication lines were opened, the opportunity was used to distribute educational and informational brochures in addition to the free seedlings. Time was spent with each community individually to discuss the importance of good community forest management. Specific management issues discussed included proper tree-planting techniques, including placing the right tree in the right place; proper tree care; and proper tree pruning, including the negative impacts that topping has on trees. Also, information was provided about the Tree City USA Program. This project was organized and conducted by David D. Close, community forestry volunteer coordinator for Southern Illinois University.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 227
Number of communities assisted: 227
Number of Tree City USA communities: 172
Number of trees planted (seedlings): 44,575
Number of days: 973
Number of hours of training provided of volunteer assistance to program: 1826

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Indiana

Program Overview

The Community and Urban Forestry (C&UF) Program provides statewide leadership to increase public awareness of the value of trees and associated natural resources in urban areas, where more than 70 percent of Indiana citizens live. The program assists and encourages Indiana communities and volunteers to protect, expand, and improve community forests. The program strives to help citizens make the connection between rural and urban forests, and to incorporate the ideology that the urban forest is part of the community infrastructure.

Program Accomplishments

In addition to conducting our regular grant program, we awarded special project grants to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), and to the Indiana Arborist Association (IAA). KIB used the funding to produce radio spots and to pay for specific internet advertising regarding the benefits of urban forestry. The spots were on two popular radio stations during the morning commute. KIB also initiated a riparian tree-planting project at Chapel Glen School. The entire school participated in the effort. The IAA hosted and financially sponsored 60 certified arborists to complete ArborMaster training.

C&UF organized People and Trees—A Festival of Growth at the Governor's residence. The event attracted more than 500 people and included the IAA Tree Climbing Jamboree; a wood utilization demonstration by crafters; Wood-Mizer sawmill demonstration with seven industrial arts high school classes; and the Tree City USA awards event. Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon spent the entire day outdoors visiting with the 500 guests. In addition, they presented the Tree City USA awards to each Tree City USA community, posed for photos with them, and spent time visiting with individuals from each Tree City USA community present.

C&UF hosted the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) annual summer meeting with the goal of demonstrating the links between traditional and urban forestry. The meeting was held in downtown Indianapolis, and a day-long bus tour was included, which highlighted urban projects that had traditional forestry values. The bus tour featured discussion with two city foresters: Jason Kissel of Indianapolis and Lee Huss of Bloomington. The tour included stops at an urban wood utilization project called 'Trees to Furniture,' where the log yard was highlighted, and White River, where the group viewed an urban flood plain reclamation area. The group also visited Holliday Park Nature Center and Ft. Harrison State Park, two popular urban forests in and around Indianapolis. Not only did NAASF members and their guests learn more about the potential link between urban forestry and traditional forestry projects, but Division of Forestry staff learned more about the C&UF.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 453
Number of communities assisted: 404
Number of hours of training provided: 176
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 118,050
Number of trees planted: 6,270
Number of Tree City USA communities: 45
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 10

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Iowa

Program Overview

The Iowa U&CF Program serves as a valuable resource to the State's residents. The role of the program is to provide broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. The result is improved awareness of urban forestry and its practices and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

Program Accomplishments

Operation Releaf

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with Alliant Energy, coordinated 20 residential tree distribution projects through Operation Releaf. A total of 8,437 landscape trees (6-8 feet tall and 21 containerized species) were distributed to 4,134 Alliant Energy customers at 50 percent of the retail price. More than \$394,000 worth of trees (retail value of \$674,960) were purchased from 42 local nurseries and garden centers, and 543 trained volunteers assisted with tree planting and care. Alliant Energy has indicated that they wish to participate again in FY 2003 to duplicate these initial efforts.

Million More by 2004

Using \$250,000 in State grant funds, the Million More by 2004 supported a total of 93 community projects that resulted in the planting of 5,050 new landscape trees on public properties across the State. Community leaders developed proposals, provided a dollar-for-dollar match, and agreed to 5-year maintenance agreements. This was the third year of this effort, and will be the final year due to State budget cuts. More than 15,000 trees were planted with a value of more than \$2 million to local nurseries and garden centers during the life of the program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 594
Number of communities assisted: 526
Number of days of volunteer assistance to the program: 54,153
Number of trees planted: 15,475
Number of Tree City USA communities: 123
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 40

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Maine

Program Overview

Maine is blessed with a rich natural resource base and is the most forested State in the Nation. As a result, citizens often don't see the need for long-term community forestry planning. Yet, in a time when forest fragmentation, sprawl, and liquidation harvesting top local news, the need for comprehensive community forestry programs could not be greater. Project Canopy, Maine's community forestry program, works to increase awareness about the benefits trees provide and encourage public involvement in community forestry programs.

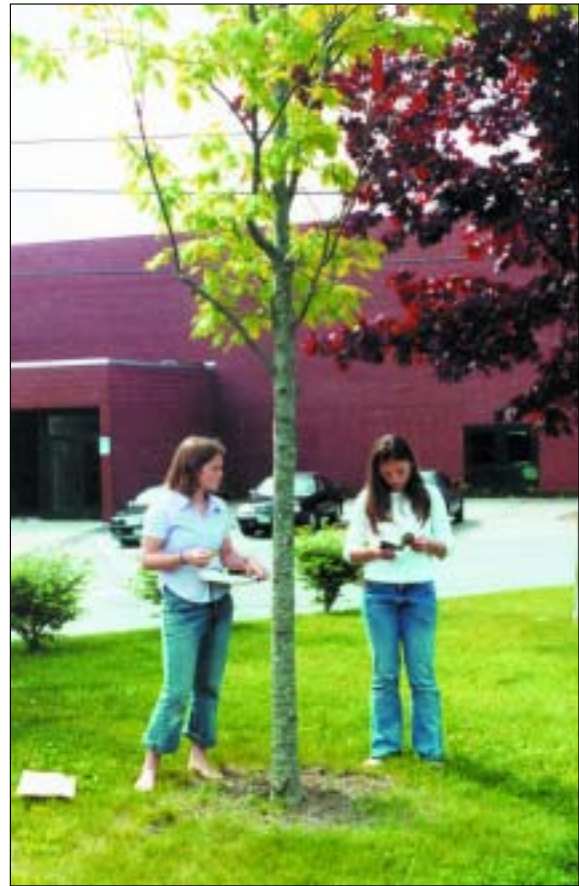
Program Accomplishments

Project Canopy initiated an aggressive media campaign, through newspaper, radio, and television infomercials, to increase the public's awareness of community forestry and the services that Project Canopy can provide. In addition to staging the media campaign, the project fostered public awareness and citizen involvement through technical assistance, tree steward workshops, newsletters, participation in fairs and community events, and training sessions for local government. The following examples of projects conducted in the past year range from an established program to a program just beginning:

The City of Biddeford, with strong municipal and citizen support, started a Project Canopy Committee and developed a community forestry plan of action. During an Arbor Week celebration, the committee established a tree nursery, planted trees, and turned a local park into an outdoor classroom for local school children.

The Town of Corinna was once home to a large woolen mill that, when removed, left polluted soil and water in its wake. The site of the former mill is now classified as an EPA Superfund site. The town and the EPA are in the middle of a massive remediation effort that, with the formation a Project Canopy committee, now includes recreation trails and newly planted trees in parks and green spaces.

The School Tree Education Mastery (STEM) Program in Bath, ME, involves and educates youth about the environment and the benefits of trees in urban settings. Sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Bath Department of Cemeteries and Parks, STEM resulted in 100 students from local middle and high schools completing an inventory of 270 public trees. Beyond assisting the town and gaining students a better understanding of the role trees play in their environment, this program also furthered the incorporation of natural science subject matter in school curricula. The Town of Washburn brought together municipal leaders, citizens, and school students to plant trees in two town parks. Volunteers learned



High school students conduct tree inventory in Bath.

proper planting and tree care techniques, and a brochure was produced that serves as a guide for residents visiting the parks and a learning tool for students.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 179
Number of communities assisted: 133
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,196
Number of trees planted: 1,506
Number of Tree City USA communities: 11

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Maryland

Program Overview

The Maryland U&CF Program supports and encourages urban natural resource stewardship throughout the State. With program functions ranging from protecting trees during development, to working with community groups on tree planting projects, Maryland's U&CF Program is a progressive, far-reaching, and comprehensive effort to enhance the urban forest function and increase forest cover in the State.

Program Accomplishments

Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) is one of many initiatives active in Maryland. RB is a regional partnership strengthening community-based efforts to improve urban natural resources supported by the USDA Forest Service and managed by the Parks & People Foundation in cooperation with the Maryland State Forester. This national model for community forestry and watershed organizing equips people to care for natural resources and to employ these resources to revitalize their neighborhoods. Over the last 8 years, RB has been focusing its efforts along stream valleys and in neighborhoods with significant tree deficits, helping to "green" 45 neighborhoods by planting more than 5,500 street trees and 11,800 riparian plants in more than 500 projects, involving more than 3,000 volunteers, annually. RB has also provided stewardship education to more than 10,700 students and 600 adults. RB's 20 partnering organizations include the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, several nonprofit organizations, three watershed associations, businesses, and academic institutions. RB actively reaches out to culturally diverse communities to help residents plant trees along streets and streams, transform vacant lots to community green spaces, restore parks and schoolyards, and support youth education and adult training to foster stewardship of natural resources.

During FY 2002, RB supported community forestry activities among partner agencies and neighborhood groups through community organizing, technical assistance, volunteer training, and logistical support. This resulted in planting 2,002 street trees, more than doubling last year's production, by effectively implementing the USDA Forest Service Title VIII and inner-city grants. RB also maintained 4,200 street trees and 12,000



Blacktop is being removed at the Franklin Square Elementary School. The first phase of removal and planting included this reading circle designed by the students.

riparian plants as part of 125 projects involving 3,200 volunteers who logged 8,100 work hours. RB expanded a successful demonstration project at Franklin Square Elementary School (inner-city grant to six other city schools, removing asphalt and restoring schoolyard habitats).

Statistical Highlights

Number of communities assisted: 354
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 10,808
Number of Tree City USA communities: 36
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 9
Number of Tree Line USA Awards: 3

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Massachusetts

Program Overview

With dense populations and vast town forests, along with a tremendous resource of town commons and conservation land, the people of Massachusetts have come to expect the comfort and beauty of trees in their neighborhoods. Through technical assistance, education, and grant funding, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) provides assistance to communities in their efforts to build support for community forest resources. Planning and Education grants support local efforts to develop sustained U&CF programs in Massachusetts towns and cities. Heritage Tree Care grants provide funds for professional care of large and historically significant trees in public landscapes. Through a mix of State and private funding, the Massachusetts ReLeaf Fund—a trust fund established by the legislature—supports tree-planting projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Program Accomplishments

The DEM's Urban Forestry Program, in partnership with the Massachusetts Community Forestry Council, completed a 5-year strategic planning process. The plan identifies five broad categories of concern and activities (stewardship, funding, awareness, tree canopy, and management), which encompass a healthy U&CF Program. In addition to the full plan document, the DEM prepared a colorful, attractive poster that summarizes and concisely communicates the salient points of the plan.

Using Federal funding, the DEM awarded 17 Planning and Education grants totaling \$93,000 to communities and nonprofit entities throughout the State. These grants focused on topics of community awareness, forest inventories, invasive species control, and innovative youth programs. In addition, the DEM awarded 14 Heritage Tree grants totaling \$34,000 to communities to provide arboricultural care for large and historically significant trees. Examples of these grants are given below.

Nuestras Raices, Inc., an inner-city community development agency dealing largely with minority populations within the City of Holyoke, received a Planning and Education grant from the DEM. The goal of the project was two-fold: first, to train youth from inner-city Holyoke to assess trees on the planned canal walkway through the city's historic center, and second, to encourage this small group of youth leaders to pursue further studies in forestry. The youth presented their assessment to the city, and their work has been incorporated into the restoration plan for the canal. The Town of Marshfield Historical Commission was awarded a Heritage Tree grant to perform crown cleaning and bracing of nine trees on the Historic Daniel Webster Estate. The estate is a veritable arboretum that was created in the mid-19th century by the great



Volunteers assist Earthworks with tree planting on urban wilds restoration project in Boston (Grant-Earthworks).



Massachusetts DEM provides heritage tree grants to help preserve historic trees.

statesman Daniel Webster. The trees that received care through these grant funds are all either original trees planted by Mr. Webster or a second generation of trees he planted. One tree in particular, the "Great Linden" (an outstanding *Tilia cordata*), is a registered State champion, with an estimated planting date of 1640.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 224
Number of communities assisted: 135
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 748
Number of Tree City USA communities: 68

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Michigan

Program Overview

The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry (MUCF) Program serves as a valuable resource to the State's nearly 7.5 million urban residents. The role of the program is to provide broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. The result is improved awareness of urban forestry, its practices, and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

Program Accomplishments

The City of Battle Creek recently completed a 2-year project to create a tree management plan based on community perceptions of local urban forestry needs. The project demonstrated excellent use of community feedback through survey participation, conducted a street tree inventory, identified 1,098 trees in hazardous condition, and established a goal to plant 450 new trees each year to offset annual losses and increase overall tree cover. Together with the Greening of Detroit, the MUCF Program funded the planting of 2,993 trees in 22 communities and 16 schools, involving more than 1,000 volunteers. Additional projects included sponsoring an annual bare-root tree sale (2,450 trees), the TreeKeeper series of workshops for 50 adults, and education programs for nearly 3,000 students.

Since the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)—an exotic foreign pest of ash trees—this summer in Southeast Michigan, the MUCF Council has been at the forefront of management- and education-related issues. As part of the advisory council, an EAB subcommittee was developed to address awareness and education needs and identify partners. In November, this committee—the Greening of Detroit—and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow hosted a media event in downtown Detroit to draw attention to the issue.

Throughout the year, the MUCF Program funded 11 community forestry grants and provided 6 libraries and nature centers with funding to develop and expand their U&CF reference materials. Two communities conducted tree inventories and over 800 volunteer hours were involved with these projects. As part of Michigan DNR's Cooperative Resource Management Initiative, MUCF provided nearly 300 urban assists for tree planting and technical advice. MUCF has also developed and supported other statewide projects, including the Home Depot Tool Bank and Keep Michigan Beautiful programs. These programs, administered by the volunteer coordinator, provide tools for tree care and planting and provide education for maintaining healthy and sustainable natural resources. More than 20 communities were assisted through these programs in 2002.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 510

Number of communities assisted: 362

Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 4,239

Number of trees planted (trees/seedlings): 8,481/52,000

Number of Tree City USA communities: 78

Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 13

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Minnesota

Program Overview

Minnesota U&CF is a cooperative effort among many entities including Federal, State, local, nonprofit, and volunteer organizations. The Department of Natural Resource (DNR) U&CF Program seeks to strengthen advocacy by local leaders and to increase the capacity of local units of government to manage their community forest resources appropriately.

Program Accomplishments

Using Federal pass-through funds, the University of Minnesota (U of MN) College of Natural Resources (CNR) created a full-time position to support dissemination of research-based information, training of citizen volunteer Tree Care Advisors (TCAs), and updating and linking key Web sites in the State. This technician is vital to the coordination of technology transfer among principle partner agencies and organizations.

In FY 2002, TCAs began to accept leadership roles in the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Council. The new council president, co-chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, and editor of the e-newsletter are all graduates of the TCA Program. Their citizen perspective is proving invaluable in council meeting discussions of U&CF issues and in guiding the council's strategic planning.

DNR Forestry staff helped initiate several volunteer tree planting projects by collaborating with the Greenspace Partners, an organization of neighborhood groups in the Phillips and Powderhorn areas just south of downtown Minneapolis. The Greenspace Partners also began to clean up and landscape vacant lots that had become garbage-dumping sites. The Greenspace Partners are part of the larger Twin Cities Greening Coalition (of non-profit organizations), which supports grassroots environmental improvement activities in diverse, inner-city neighborhoods in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Over the past 5 years, U of MN researchers and the DNR have collected data from cities and performed autopsies on hundreds of wind-damaged and downed trees. Deep planting, resulting in stem girdling roots, was identified as the leading cause of whole tree failure. This work resulted in two publications and a companion video in English and Spanish, *A Practitioner's Guide to Stem Girdling Roots of Trees*.

A project in the city of Red Wing led to the collection and integration of key road information, including road surfaces, traffic control signs, and street trees, into one database available to all city departments. Using a Minnesota ReLeaf matching grant, the city adapted an existing database program for road surface characteristics to include data on street trees and planting spaces, resulting in the systematic monitoring and maintenance of public trees. In the process, summer workers were trained to collect and enter data, and the city staff was trained to assess risk of tree failures. Tree work orders and maintenance records are being integrated to provide for continuous updating.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 455
Number of communities assisted: 96
Hours of training provided: 14,755
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 1,667
Number of Tree City USA communities: 120
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 12

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Missouri

Program Overview

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) continues to promote and support U&CF activities statewide. The MDC assists communities in developing sustainable U&CF programs through community enabling grants, promotion and coordination of volunteer-driven U&CF programs, local coordination of the Tree City USA Program, and the Missouri Community Forestry Council.

Program Accomplishments

Working closely with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, contracted to provide State volunteer coordination in U&CF, MDC supported new and existing volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance. For example, the Treekeepers Program, which trains and utilizes volunteers for community tree maintenance, was active in Springfield, Branson, St. Joseph, and Columbia.

The Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC), supported by the MDC, played a key role in utilizing volunteers to educate the public about U&CF programs in the State. A public service campaign called, "Experts Agree Don't Top Your Tree," was the focus for the MCFC this year. The campaign educates the public that tree topping is not a desirable practice and provides alternatives to topping. Additional funding was secured from the Midwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of American Foresters to redesign and reprint the brochure and poster.

Outreach efforts through the Missouri Electric Cooperative Right of Way Association resulted in recognition of the Cuivre River Electric Cooperative by The National Arbor Day Foundation as Tree Line USA. Springfield City Utilities, Columbia Water and Light Department, Ameren, and Independence Power and Light were all certified as Tree Line USA in FY 2002. At the request of a nursery with many employees for

whom English is a second language, a tree-planting program was developed and presented in Spanish by MDC staff.

A new and enhanced Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM II) grants program was created. Recognizing the importance of developing sustainable, locally driven community tree care programs, this grant program provides cost share grants to communities for projects that help a community build or develop a community forestry program. Communities must articulate how their proposed project will advance long-range community forestry goals for their community. The grants are available for activities such as urban tree inventories, hazard tree identification and management, educational materials, tree ordinance development, and traditional activities like pruning, removal, and planting. TRIM II provided 43 grants this year totaling \$249,845.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 194
Number of communities assisted: 194
Number of hours of training provided: 1,000
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 3,880
Number of trees planted: 6,638
Number of Tree City USA Communities: 59

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New Hampshire

Program Overview

Natural resources are a vital part of New Hampshire's cultural, economic, and community structure. The State has long been famous for its great natural beauty and abundant resources, which have attracted tourists and immigrants from metropolitan areas. Four decades of rapid growth have drawn heavily on New Hampshire's resources. Some communities have experienced displacement of wildlife, loss of recreational corridors and scenic vistas, contamination of surface water and groundwater, and increased erosion and flooding. Many New Hampshire residents link these consequences of growth to a general degradation of community character. The future of New Hampshire's natural resource base depends on land use decisions made at the local level.

The New Hampshire U&CF Program is a partnership between the State Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, which provides community forestry assistance to people and communities throughout the State. The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth offers educational programs on forestry and horticulture to the general public. The Community Tree Steward Program trains volunteers to assist communities with public awareness, inventories and evaluations, tree planting and maintenance, fundraising, the development of ordinances, and the formation of concerned citizens committees. In every city and town the New Hampshire U&CF Program works to teach New Hampshire residents about today's critical issues.

Program Accomplishments

The Division of Forests and Lands continues to expand its capacity through the effective use of volunteers. In FY 2002, 157 New Hampshire Community Tree Stewards volunteered more than 4,270 hours assisting 69 communities. They served on tree committees, worked on landscape projects, completed tree evaluations and inventories, and helped with fundraising efforts. These activities are concentrated in the Manchester/Nashua area of the State, and in seacoast communities. In FY 2002, 60 volunteers completed a 10-week training program to become community tree stewards. Training was provided at two locations: the University of New Hampshire in Manchester and the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. The training, provided by many resource professionals, includes such urban forestry topics as tree anatomy, tree physiology, tree identification, insects and diseases, proper pruning techniques,



A.J. Dupere, Urban Forestry Coordinator for New Hampshire, discusses the Hemlock Wolly Adelgid with Associate Chief Sally Collins, during a tour of New Hampshire's urban forestry center.

proper planting techniques, and soil/water relationships. It also includes training on fundraising, public speaking, presentation techniques, and field trips.

The Concord Tree Volunteers completed a street inventory of downtown Concord using Americorps volunteers and New England College students. All street trees in the downtown business district were tallied, including vacant planting sites. All the street tree locations were geo-located and maps were prepared using a geographic information system to highlight and overlay key datasets for analysis. A preliminary report on the inventory and condition of the street trees was presented to the Concord City Council.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 144
Number of communities assisted: 137
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,196
Number of trees planted: 1,506
Number of Tree City USA communities: 11

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New Jersey

Program Overview

Across the State, the New Jersey Forest Service Community Forestry Program is spreading the message that our urban and community forests have tremendous value and are worthy of investment. This message resulted in many activities and achievements in FY 2002.

Program Accomplishments

Conectiv Electric Utility negotiated to have \$1 million of its recent air pollution fine money donated to the New Jersey Tree Foundation (a nonprofit organization working with the Community Forestry Program) for a massive Urban Airshed Reforestation project in the Camden area. Trained volunteers are planting 3-inch caliper shade trees in the communities most directly affected by the air pollution that led to the fines. These cooperative efforts, based on Dr. David Nowak's (USDA Forest Service) Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) research findings, demonstrate the positive effects of our urban forests on the environment and health of people in urban communities.

The New Jersey No Net Loss Reforestation Act has been amended to mandate that when a State entity needs to clear a half acre or more of forest, it must first have a reforestation plan approved by the New Jersey Forest Service. All the trees will need to be replaced as near as possible to the construction site in accordance with the hierarchy of sites stipulated in the law.

The New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act enables communities and counties in compliance to qualify for tree-related liability protection and the opportunity to compete for special grants. Compliance includes an approved Community Forestry Management Plan, appropriately trained people, and annual report submission. More than 37 percent of New Jersey communities are either working toward or already have an approved Community Forestry Management Plan.

The preservation license plate, Treasure Our Trees, has been joined by a first-ever commercial vehicle plate with the same graphics of a red oak (the New Jersey State Tree) in autumn colors and a flowering dogwood (the New Jersey Memorial Tree). This legislation was made possible through the joint efforts of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council and private-sector demand from arborists, foresters, tree nursery owners, and landscapers. Our grant programs continue to receive funds from the sale of these plates.

In FY 2002, New Jersey had 125 municipalities qualify for Tree City USA status. This earned the State the rank of sixth in the Nation and first among the Middle Atlantic States.



New Jersey Tree Foundation Royden St., Camden, NJ, before.



New Jersey tree foundation Royden St., Camden, NJ, after.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 421
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 421
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 9,963
Number of Tree City USA communities: 125

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New York

Program Overview

New York is a large and diverse State, both in its land mass and population. It is rural in nature, but more than 18 million people live on its 30 million acres. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues to train more communities, agencies, nonprofit groups, and citizens to understand U&CF and assume increasing responsibility for tracking and managing resources. By taking a more central role in monitoring and managing resources, communities develop more self-confidence and continuity in program staff and make more timely and effective management decisions. The program coordinator works with DEC foresters in each of nine regions to help deliver technical assistance and training. A community grants program funds projects to help develop sustainable programs at the local level. The FY 2002 DEC grant program funded community projects to protect municipal trees and forests and to foster partnerships, engage volunteers, and heighten awareness of the importance of trees.

Program Accomplishments

Long Island ReLeaf provided support to nine schools for tree plantings and workshops. SpruceUp Workshops were held at Gotham Avenue Elementary School in Elmont and at the Student Garden Club in Captree. Students and teachers participated in the hands-on workshop where the proper procedure for tree planting was demonstrated. Thirty-one schools have completed 40 planting projects. EsteeLauder, LIPA, and Keyspan are annual supporters.

New York State continues to use Arbor Day to raise public awareness of the importance of tree planting and care. The FY 2002 State Arbor Day celebration was held at the Governor's Mansion in Albany, NY. The ceremony was hosted by Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue and involved Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Erin Crotty, who unveiled the New York State Arbor Day poster.

The State U&CF Council serves as the advisory group to the State program. The council is a nonprofit organization, and has a part-time executive director. There are 160 members total, with 28 people serving on the board of directors. Goals of the council include providing opportunities for networking between members and partners, and promoting best management practices for urban forestry through education. The council also publishes a statewide newsletter, *Taking Root*, three times per year.

NY ReLeaf and the U&CF Council partnered to present the 10th Annual U&CF Statewide Conference, "Reinventing New York's Forest-Creating Greener Communities." Although the decision to hold the statewide conference in New York City was made before the tragic events of September 11th, that fateful day



Trees New York has worked with New York DEC to replanting trees on properties impacted by the Asian Longhorned Beetle in the New York City area. (Grant-Trees New York.)



Trees planted in Brooklyn, NY, help to reestablish the canopy cover lost to the Asian Longhorned beetle. (Grant Trees New York.)

only reinforced the importance of trees, parks, and woodlands as places of solace in times of crisis.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 410
Number of communities assisted: 368
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 9,760
Number of trees planted: 19,800
Number of Tree City USA communities: 98

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Ohio

Program Overview

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program, created in 1979, is a State-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of 6 regional urban foresters help communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs.

Program Accomplishments

With the consent and support of the city's parks director, the North Canton Urban Forestry Initiative Kickoff Event was held in the City of North Canton. The event, which was the initial step needed to develop and implement a comprehensive tree care program for the community, was a component of Ohio's federally funded Upper Muskingum Watershed Initiative. It was agreed that awareness of the benefits that such an urban forestry program would provide to this community of 15,600 residents would be the key to its long-term success. Dogwood Park, a community recreation center that was damaged by a tornado just a week before the event, was the selected location for the event. Local media were invited to observe 300 middle school students remove debris, mulch playground areas, and plant seedlings. The students and attendees also heard speeches from the mayor, various city council members, and State representatives, expressing their support for an improved quality of life through the full use of their urban forest resources. Seizing on the success of the kickoff event, the parks director provided a followup series of urban forestry public lectures. In addition, monthly guest columns, which addressed various urban forestry topics, appeared in the local newspaper. This urban forestry initiative was a joint effort among various nonprofit groups, local sponsors, city, and State officials. It is hoped that continued public support will lead to an administrative, legislative, and financial commitment for a long-term urban forestry program for the City of North Canton.

For the 20th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's 222 designated Tree City USA cities and villages demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 361
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 361
Number of training hours provided: 17,379
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 6,819
Number of trees planted: 58,374
Number of Tree City USA communities: 222
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 37

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Pennsylvania

Program Overview

Pennsylvania's Urban Forestry Program faces many hurdles, ranging from educational challenges in local volunteer training to physical challenges in the lack of space and degraded soils within highly urbanized areas. The Urban Forestry Program is bringing new hope to communities across the State, enabling them to reclaim their pride by beautifying their communities. The program is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania State University State Extension, and Pennsylvania Community Forestry Council. Together, they provide the knowledge and means to establish and maintain the urban forest and improve environmental, cultural, and biological health.

Program Accomplishments

Residents in the oldest neighborhood in Erie have banded together to create a model of community participation in planting and caring for trees and community open spaces. The project in the city's Little Italy section is a partnership between Erie and Trinity Center, Penn State Extension, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Erie County Environmental Coalition, Mercyhurst College, Erie County Conservation District, and local volunteers. A tree inventory completed by the partnership recommended planting sites to the city, which responded with 80 trees during a 2-year period. Members of the Trinity Center provided an additional 17 trees and labor. Trained youth from the center then inventoried existing trees for recommended maintenance. A local artist coordinated a landscape garden and activity area in a vacant lot. Other neighborhood groups that have been replicating these activities include the Bayfront East Side Task Force, Snoops Neighborhood Watch, Central City Neighborhood Watch, and Glenwood Neighborhood Association.

Following 7 months of leadership preparation, Trinity Center youth who had earned the privilege became ambassadors across the State. They named their organization the 18th Street Community Builders. The youth prepared an art mural and presentations to illustrate their activities and understanding of community forestry in preparation for a trip to Philadelphia. Nine neighborhood high school youth and four adults took a 3-day study trip to Philadelphia, funded by the USDA Forest Service, Allegheny Earth Force, Mercyhurst College Watershed Art Project, and French Creek Project. The Erie youth participated in lectures and activities, toured the Village of Arts and



Northeastern Area-High School students from Erie, PA, visit Philadelphia and admire outdoor greenscape at Village of Arts and Humanities.

Humanities Inner City Revitalization Program, and assisted in the Village annual cleanup. The youth culminated their trip by presenting their lectures and mural to the Youth Conservation Corps at Cobbs Creek Environmental Center. New mural projects incorporated in their Erie neighborhood will illustrate the hope and understanding these youth derived from that trip.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 915
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 628
Number of training hours provided: 25,569
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 4,205
Number of trees planted: 1,253
Number of Tree City USA communities: 81
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 11

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Rhode Island

Program Overview

In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the Rhode Island U&CF Program focuses on restoring and maintaining the State's green infrastructure. This goal is accomplished through successful efforts to promote and distribute the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Plan through the mandated comprehensive planning process of each city and town. The Division of Forest Environment also maintains strong partnerships with community tree groups and the Rhode Island Tree Council by promoting tree planting, tree inventories, urban forestry workshops, and field tours.

Program Accomplishments

The Rhode Island Tree Council has established "Tree Action," a television program featured weekly on the Rhode Island public access channel. Topics have been wide ranging and include correct pruning techniques, proper tree selection, and dramatic visual illustrations of tree mulching. One program was devoted to the Asian longhorned beetle in the belief that a well-informed public is the best defense against the scourge. Rave reviews for the stars and topics have kept the telephones and e-mail busy with inquiries and discussions.

Citizen volunteers become Rhode Island Tree Stewards by enrolling in an intensive course of classroom and hands-on instruction, and by volunteering 30 hours of "tree" service. The course is offered in the spring and fall with approximately 30 people in each course. To date, 323 people have taken the course. They now perform myriad tasks, from assisting with mailings in the office to developing a tree farm. Every city and town in the State has tree stewards who are implementing the urban forestry program in their communities.

The Rhode Island Tree Council's 2002 Annual Conference on Urban Forestry attracted 120 people to discuss "Wires and Trees." Since many communities are struggling with poor tree-trimming practices, the conference highlighted speakers from States that had successfully developed strategies for reducing conflict between trees and utilities.



William Ellery Park in Newport was the setting for Deborah Gangloff, executive director of American Forests, to present Jan Reitsma, director of the Department of Environmental Management, with one of 14 tulip poplar seedlings propagated from seeds of the last remaining Liberty Tree from the 13 original colonies. This icon of the Colonial Revolution lives on in the seedlings from the four-century-old tree whose remnants became 400 acoustic guitars.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 40
Number of communities assisted: 40
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,160
Number of hours of training provided: 2,000
Number of Tree City USA communities: 7
Number of seedlings planted: 3,100
Number of trees planted: 307

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Vermont

Program Overview

The Vermont U&CF Program mission is to "promote the stewardship of urban and rural forest landscapes to enhance the quality of life in Vermont communities." This mission recognizes the need to address environmental, economic, and social values of forests from the urban core, to suburban developments, to rural forest land. In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the program focuses on issues relating to developing sustainable community programs by building in-house technical capacity, active community volunteerism, a basic assessment of needs, and recognition of the role trees and forests contribute to economic development and smart growth.

Program Accomplishments

Vermont's grant program provided financial assistance to 48 communities and organizations for a wide range of planning, planting, and maintenance projects. The program held its annual Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) leadership program, a 35-hour training program for community residents wishing to learn more about trees and community forestry.

One graduate of this year's SOUL program has stopped the practice of tree topping in her town, Newport. Before attending the class, Roxana Bailey had never heard of a tree warden or the concept of community forestry. During the 11-week program, she learned that tree topping was an unacceptable practice. Noticing that most of the public trees in her town were topped, she approached the town and found out the tree warden position was vacant and city leaders did not intend to fill it. Both public and private trees suffered from severe, repetitive topping and were posing safety risks. Through several presentations at public meetings, she was able to convince the city council to reinstate the tree warden

position and to stop the practice of tree topping. She was soon appointed as the tree warden and in the 5 months since has worked one-on-one with city employees, teaching them how to properly plant, mulch, and prune trees. She has raised funds to plant memorial trees, coordinated community youth in planting seedlings along the river through town, and held a tree-planting and care workshop for the community. She is now forming a Tree Board and is working on initiatives to manage the municipal forests, partnering with the forestry instructor at the local technical high school. She claims her participation in the SOUL program has given her the strength to stand up in front of a group and the confidence to speak knowledgeably about proper urban forestry practices. Newport has long been one of the U&CF Program's "target" communities to help establish a proactive community forestry program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 147
Number of communities assisted: 145
Number of hours of training provided: 330
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 3,900
Number of Tree City USA communities (or equivalent): 2
Number of trees planted: 220

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West Virginia

Program Overview

The West Virginia U&CF Program provides technical assistance to municipal governments in the long-term care of trees on public property. Three positions now comprise the urban forestry staff and deliver the program statewide. The program helps cities and towns develop guidelines for tree maintenance, form citizen-based tree boards, and advocate sustained tree care. Additional support is offered in the inventory and assessment of all public trees to help develop management plans to guide the efficient allocation of local staff and financial resources. The West Virginia U&CF Program helps communities develop these skills through training, educational material, and personal contacts, and also provides financial support.

Program Accomplishments

The U&CF Program produced several new educational and technical products in FY 2002. Examples include a *Trees for Cities and Communities* brochure, diagrammed planting instructions for volunteers participating in the National Tree Trust and Mountaineer Treeways programs, fact sheets for community tree boards covering many aspects of care, and workshop presentations on topics such as proper pruning techniques.

The program also provided technical assistance to the following eight cities and towns in the State's Eastern Panhandle: Bolivar, Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Keyser, Martinsburg, Moorefield, Ranson, and Wardensville. These communities are at various levels of urban forestry program development, but share some common tree care needs such as significant conflicts between trees and utility lines. Municipal governments and electric utilities in this region of the State have forged new and stronger partnerships, resulting in agreements to replace large, declining trees under overhead utility lines.

As a result of program assistance, the town of Moorefield has a new tree board and is working on an ordinance requiring trees to be installed in newly established parking lots. In addition, an educational trail in Town Park received direct assistance in the removal of trees in hazardous condition.



West Virginia Division of Forestry, U&CF Program hosted many workshops in 2002, including this pruning workshop in Moorefield, WV.

The West Virginia U&CF Program's increased staff capacity will enable the program to address the complex urban forestry issues that the State faces. Those issues range from urban sprawl and development to proper tree care and advanced municipal tree ordinances.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 51
Number of communities receiving assistance: 51
Number of hours of training provided: 128
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 210
Number of trees planted: 1,909
Number of Tree City USA communities: 13
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 4

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Wisconsin

Program Overview

Wisconsin's urban forest resource covers more than 1.7 million acres and is home to more than 4.3 million people. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides urban forestry assistance to local governments, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and other interested groups through the Urban Forestry Working Group led by a State coordinator, six regional coordinators, and three half-time assistants. This group, in partnership with the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, develops statewide policy and implements it through a team approach.

Program Accomplishments

Wisconsin, partnered with USDA Forest Service Forest Health Monitoring, joined with three other States to pilot two new Urban Forest Health Monitoring protocols. The intent of the protocols is to standardize methods of assessing the urban forest resource to enable science-based decisionmaking and planning. Stage one assessed the entire resource across ownerships, duplicating the Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA) plot design. Stage two assessed only urban street rights-of-way where communities have the most management authority. Data from these pilots will help refine the protocols and develop methods to implement them nationally. Wisconsin provides 50/50 cost-share urban forestry grants using State and Federal funds. In FY 2002, 61 grants were awarded to local government and nonprofit groups.

The urban forestry program revised its strategic plan in a successful effort to update its goals and objectives, establish more specific performance measures, and improve its usefulness. Responding to the findings of the DNR's multiyear urban forestry program study, the plan not only identifies new directions and partners, but also contains a detailed implementation plan and specific output and outcome-based performance measures for each of its seven goals.

Urban forestry's flagship publication, *The Forest Where We Live*, was revised and republished. This 16-page, full-color bulletin was featured as a center supplement

to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, which has more than 400,000 readers. An additional 25,000 copies were reprinted to use as the foundation for technical and public awareness efforts. In a more local effort, urban forestry was featured in *Wisconsin Forests Forever 2002*, an annual supplement in the Wausau Daily Herald, in an effort to integrate urban forestry with traditional forestry in the northcentral part of the State.

FY 2002 marked the 10th anniversary of the DNR partnership with the Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA) to conduct an annual conference and trade show. In 1992, the WAA annual conference attracted about 250 attendees and 30 show vendors. Currently, the combined annual and urban forestry conference boasts 600 participants and 60 trade show vendors.

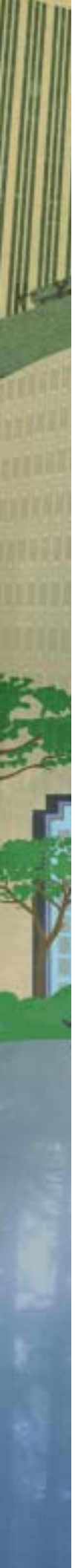
With 139 Tree City USA communities, Wisconsin ranks 3rd in the Nation. The 30 Tree City USA Growth Awards rank it 4th in the Nation. All five of the Wisconsin investor-owned utilities, plus two electric co-ops and one municipal utility, achieved Tree Line USA, which ranks it 1st in the Nation, tied only with Texas.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 290
Number of communities assisted: 216
Number of hours of training provided: 4,906
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,450
Number of Tree City USA communities: 139
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 30

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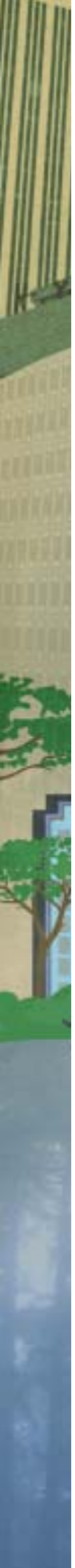


Earmarks

Congressional earmarks are funds designated to specific organizations, with congressional support, to implement Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) programmatic activities in specific States. These partnering organizations assist State and Federal agencies with implementing the goals and objectives of the overall program.

Metropolitan areas are home to 80 percent of the Nation's population, as well as one-quarter of the Nation's total tree canopy of approximately 74.4 billion trees.





Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program

Program Overview

With funding from FY 2001, the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program continued to enhance communities in FY 2002 by improving and restoring the health of trees, forests, and green spaces, thus making the communities more livable. Earmarked as a special program by Congressman Don Sherwood, the program was directed by the USDA Forest Service, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, through the Pennsylvania State Forester. Since 1995, the program has provided opportunities for integrating social and economic efforts with natural resource improvements through partnership building. Support has fostered community awareness and participation in stewardship-based activities on a regional scale and contributed to quality of life improvements.

Key Issues

- A changing economy and community infrastructure resulting from a decline in the mining-based industry and a rise in the tourism industry.
- A need for outreach and education to reverse a legacy of natural resource exploitation and exportation.
- Declining water, forest, and open space resources resulting from past and current land uses.
- A need for comprehensive planning that addresses natural resource issues.

Program Accomplishments

Tree Plantings

Generated 596 volunteer days working with 189 partners who helped with planting 733 shade trees, 439 flowering trees, 184 evergreens, and 1,396 shrubs in 41 communities. Plantings contributed to increased visibility and heightened awareness of the benefits of urban and community forestry.

Education

Provided training for 215 workshop attendees. Training resulted in revision of PP&L Electric's pruning specifications and training for 400 line-clearance trimmers. Training also brought 12 communities together in a regional collaborative to purchase bare-root trees for volunteer plantings, resulting in reduced cost and higher survival rates.

Hazardous Tree Remediation

Worked with six Shade Tree Commissions to assess 286 hazardous trees, remove 238 trees, and restore 139 to safe condition. The program contributed to a substantial reduction in maintenance hours during storm events and retained better than a 1:1 removal-planting ratio on all projects.

Rail-Trail Improvements

Involved 21 partners in reclaiming two highly visible trail corridors degraded by industrial activities and invasive plant material. This support generated interest and visibility that contributed to funding a trail feasibility study through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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Chicago Wilderness 2002 Accomplishments from FY 2001 Funding

Program Overview

The Chicago region—stretching from southeastern Wisconsin, through northeastern Illinois, and into northwestern Indiana—is one of a just a handful of metropolitan areas in the world that contains a high concentration of globally significant natural communities. This region holds some of the best-surviving remnants of the central Midwest's native ecosystems: prairies, woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands. The natural communities of this region, which include 200,000 acres of protected lands, are referred to as Chicago Wilderness. Chicago Wilderness is also the name of the coalition working to protect these natural areas. The USDA Forest Service is one of the more than 160 public and private organizations that have joined forces in an unprecedented alliance dedicated to protecting and restoring the region's natural heritage.

Key Issues

- Involving citizens, organizations, agencies, and corporations in biodiversity conservation efforts.
- Strengthening the scientific basis of midwestern ecosystem management.
- Restoring, managing, and protecting globally and regionally important natural communities.

Program Accomplishments

Urban Forestry Projects

Since its launch in April 1996, Chicago Wilderness has helped fund more than 180 collaborative projects across Illinois and Indiana. The Illinois Biodiversity Basics and the Chicago Wilderness Training Hub are programs aimed at increasing awareness, support, coordination, and training among educators for the recovery of biodiversity in the region.

The Mighty Acorns Program

More than 250 teachers and 8,500 urban students were involved in restoring their local native environments by participating in the Mighty Acorns Program. The program has grown from 3 partners in FY 1998 to 21 partners in FY 2002.

National Public Lands Day

On September 28, 2002, Chicago area residents joined a nationwide celebration of our country's public lands. Local volunteers joined an estimated 70,000 others across the country in this effort.

Chicago Wilderness Magazine

Some 15,000 copies, including more than 7,500 paid subscriptions, of this quarterly publication were distributed among 180 retail locations across the Chicago region.

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GreenStreets

Overview

The City of Chicago GreenStreets Program focuses on improving the quality of urban life through tree-planting and landscape programs. The 13-year initiative helps restore deteriorated neighborhoods and enhances public open spaces. Chicago is a leader in the use of trees to help reduce noise, air pollution, and summer heat levels. In addition, the GreenStreets Program provides tree-planting assistance to the Illinois Department of Transportation and Chicago neighborhoods devastated by the Asian longhorned beetle.

Key Issues

- Reforestation efforts in Chicago neighborhoods devastated by the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).
- Expressway buffer initiatives to reduce air and noise pollution through tree planting.
- Revitalization of neighborhoods through tree planting and community action.
- Protection of trees from road salt through seasonal speed reduction policies.

Program Accomplishments

Asian Longhorned Beetle

More than 1,450 trees have been removed in the ALB quarantine zones. To date, 2,309 parkway trees and 334 private trees have been planted to replace the ones removed. A total of 247 property owners have been affected by the ALB infestation.

Tree Planting

Approximately 4,030 shade trees of varying species were planted throughout Chicago in fiscal year (FY) 2002. The GreenStreets Program expanded the city's urban forest by planting trees on school grounds, along transportation corridors, and around public housing and vacant lots. Nearly 445 trees were planted along Chicago's major roadways and expressways, including key corridors along 95th and Ashland to the Dan Ryan Expressway, 95th and Ashland to Western, and 95th and Western to 111th Street. This planting will reduce air temperatures in summer, improve air quality, reduce air pollution, suppress and mask noise, and beautify the urban landscape.



Talcott school is an example of a hundred school campus parks that transformed sterile asphalt land around schools into new park space and recreational uses.

Salt Mitigation Strategy

The city enacted a seasonal automobile speed reduction program in the winter to reduce the exposure of adjacent street trees to salt spray from passing cars. Studies are ongoing to determine the effectiveness of this program.

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Program Overview

With continued Federal support through an earmark sponsored by Senator Richard Durbin in FY 2001, DePaul University's Environmental Sciences Program (urban forestry emphasis area) has been firmly established. The program is developing useful products in the area of Urban Forest Health. In a more general way, the goal of DePaul's urban forestry program is to develop and promote the science necessary for monitoring trees and to successfully restore and manage degraded lands in the region. The work of DePaul's Environmental Sciences Program staff is connected with many of the USDA Forest Service's other Chicago partners. Dr. Liam Heneghan co-chairs the Chicago Wilderness's science committee and coordinated the activities of the Invasive Species Task Force. Urban forestry projects at DePaul work in conjunction with partners such as the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Morton Arboretum, and several forest preserve districts in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Program Accomplishments

- Environmental Sciences staff and students conducted applied studies to understand the ecological effects of the invasive exotic plant buckthorn on ecosystem processes in natural systems. Their work is leading toward protocols for land managers interested in ecological restoration.
- Program staff has published on the effect of buckthorn leaf litter on soil nutrients and foodwebs, and has developed products such as a CD-ROM guide for land managers on soil microarthropods, functionally important but neglected components of regional biodiversity.
- The program is hosting, or is involved in the planning of several meetings in FY 2003 designed to open a dialog between regional scientists and land managers



Dr. Heneghan's Urban Forestry class using a malaise trap for the monitoring of insect populations in the Mary Mix McDonald Woods, in Glencoe, IL.

on the best management practices for resource management. The meetings include an Invasive Species Roundtable in February, a science forum in March (to be held in the Field Museum), and a meeting on the value of natural landscaping (cohosted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Contacts

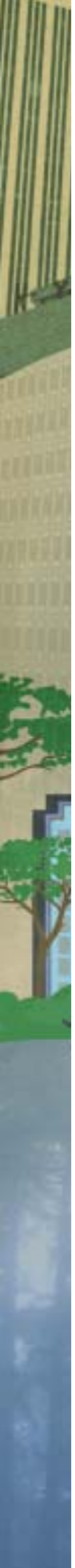
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National Investments

Funded at the national level, national investment projects are national in scope and of regional importance. Although these Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) projects may be developed and implemented by a selected region, they are designed to be replicated throughout the country.

Urban forests in metropolitan areas have a distinct characteristic, challenges, and opportunities.





Alliance for Community Trees

The cost for emergency wildfire suppression in the western regions canceled funding for this capacity-building project. If funding is restored, we will request to restore this project. Amount: \$50,000.

American Forests—Green Infrastructure Study for Three Metropolitan Cities

American Forests will conduct Urban Ecosystem Analyses in three metropolitan areas to establish a green data layer for local communities to use in future planning. The status of the projects is as follows:

Charlotte, NC

Landsat image acquisition and analysis is complete. Multispectral, high-resolution imagery has been collected and is currently being analyzed. A CITYgreen training session was conducted and a press conference on the findings of the study was held the week of March 19.

San Diego, CA

American Forests has acquired Landsat images and will begin analysis. We have just identified the coverage and imagery type for the high-resolution imagery. It was ordered January 15, 2003. CITYgreen training and a press conference were held in July 2003.

San Antonio, TX

This is a continuation of our previous Landsat study we completed in October 2002. In this project we will locate high-resolution imagery to purchase. We have secured State and corporate matching funds. The results of this study will be released at the 2003 National Urban Forest Conference in September.

Hispanic Web Page

Overview

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Hispanic Web page, at <http://www.ISAhispana.com>, was launched in FY 2002. The all-in-Spanish site features three sections. The Free Publications to Download and Print section includes items such as ISA's popular consumer information guides. Links lists 55 of the most comprehensive national and international sites relevant to the arboriculture field—including sites related to botany, entomology, forestry, safety, and pesticides; university pages; and sites from many Latin American countries and other United States' organizations and departments; The Publications and Other Resources for Sale section includes the Spanish versions of ISA's Tree Climbers' Guide, Arborists' Certification Study Guide, various National Arborist Association publications, and ISA's Quick Reference Guide for Arboriculture Terms, English-Spanish, Spanish-English.

The site aims to be the world's leading on-line source for arboriculture information in Spanish. The contents of the site will be updated as needed and future plans include providing additional links and downloadable information, as well as creating a discussion board. The USDA Forest Service provided funds for the development of this Web site as a National Investment project.

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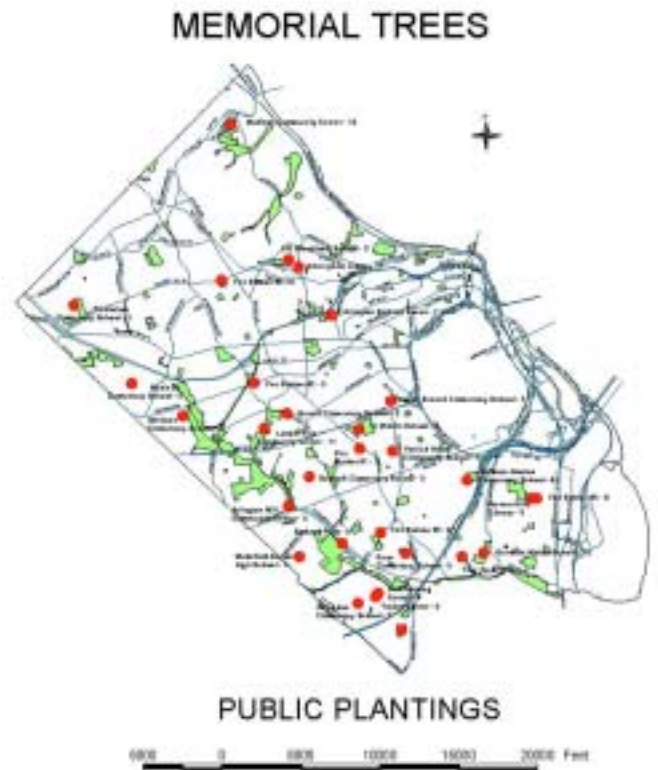
Living Memorial Project

American Forests' Memorial Tree Groves in the USDA Forest Service Southern Region

To date, through a grant to American Forests, the USDA Forest Service has donated more than 350 trees to the Memorial Tree Grove effort. Throughout Arlington County, VA, home of the Pentagon, 184 trees were planted on public property. Thirty-eight trees were planted at fire stations and 74 were planted at 16 Arlington school facilities, including the Arlington Science Focus School, Tuckahoe Elementary, and Wakefield High School. Other public tree-planting venues include community centers and libraries throughout Arlington. These trees were approximately 1" caliper and 6- to 10-feet tall. Species composition ranged from Mt. Vernon red maple, sycamore, and tulip poplar to willow oak and sweet gum. Since the USDA Forest Service provided a grant for these trees, American Forests was able to match the donation with private funding to secure another 184 trees to be planted on private property in Arlington County; therefore, a total of 368 trees were donated to the county. See the following map and list for the location of the public trees.

To commemorate the plantings, Arlington County held a press conference on December 1, 2002, to dedicate the memorial trees. American Forests' Karen Fedor spoke at the press conference along with Joyce Johnson and Bruce Serva, surviving family members of the Pentagon tragedy.

At the Pentagon, plans are under way for an official memorial; American Forests and the USDA Forest Service will work with Pentagon officials to ensure that the memorial is properly landscaped as an appropriate tribute to the 184 people who lost their lives there on September 11, 2001. The winning design for the official memorial at the Pentagon was announced on March 3.



At the Pentagon, American Forests donated 72 trees to the Pentagon Renovation project. Deborah Gangloff, Karen Fedor, and Rachel Brittin from American Forests attended opening ceremony along with Susan Mockenhaupt from the USDA Forest Service, and Dulce Pino, Eddie Bauer's District Director for the Washington, DC, area. During the ceremony, American Forests and the USDA Forest Service were thanked a number of times by high-ranking Pentagon officials for their donation. Species composition ranged from red maple, leyland cypress, and holly 'Nellie Stevens' to Andrew Jackson southern magnolia and a southern magnolia greenback. Most of these trees were in the 3- to 4-inch caliper range.

American Forests and the USDA Forest Service also commemorated the life of Richard Guadagno, Refuge Manager of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, with historic tree seedlings at a tree-planting ceremony.

**USDA Forest Service and American Forests
Memorial Trees on Public Sites in Arlington County, VA**

| No.of Trees | Public Facility | Address |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 4 | Thomas Jefferson Middle School | 125 South Old Glebe Road |
| 3 | HB Woodlawn High School | 4100 Vacation Lane |
| 3 | Barrett Elementary School | 4401 North Henderson Road |
| 3 | Wakefield High School | 4901 South Chesterfield Road |
| 3 | Abingdon Elementary School | 3035 South Abingdon Street |
| 3 | School Facility | 2770 South Taylor Street |
| 3 | Drew Model Elementary School | 3500 South 23rd Street |
| 3 | Carlin Springs Elementary School | 5995 South 5th Road |
| 3 | McKinley Elementary School | 1030 North McKinley Road |
| 5 | Tuckahoe Elementary School | 6550 North 26th Street |
| 7 | Arlington Science Focus Elementary School | 1501 North Lincoln Street |
| 5 | Patrick Henry Elementary School | 701 South Highland Street |
| 3 | Ashlawn Elementary School | 5950 North 8th Road |
| 5 | Long Branch Elementary School | 33 North Fillmore Street |
| 3 | Barcroft Elementary School | 625 South Wakefield Street |
| 6 | Hoffman-Boston Elementary School | 1415 South Queen Street |
| 12 | Gunston Middle School | 2700 South Lang Street |
| 4 | Fire Department Training Academy | 2800 South Taylor Street |
| 9 | Fire Station #1 | 500 South Glebe Road |
| 9 | Fire Station #2 | 4805 Wilson Boulevard |
| 6 | Fire Station #5 | 1750 South Hayes Street |
| 4 | Fire Station #8 | 4845 Lee Highway |
| 6 | Fire Station #9 | 1900 South Walter Reed Drive |
| 2 | Cherrydale Public Library | 2190 Military Road |
| 3 | Aurora Hills Public Library | 735 South 18th Street |
| 15 | Thomas Jefferson Community Center | 3501 South 2nd Street |
| 10 | Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center | 4200 South Four Mile Run Drive |
| 3 | Arlington Mill Community Center | 4975 Columbia Pike |
| 10 | Madison Community Center | 3829 North Stafford Street |
| 16 | Fairlington Community Center | 3308 South Stafford Street |
| 2 | Troy Park | 2629 South Troy Street |
| 11 | Lubber Run Community Center | 300 North Park Drive |

RPA Assessment

Title of Project: Sustaining Our Nation's Urban Forest Resource

USDA Forest Service Study Managers:

David J. Nowak, NE-4952, Syracuse, NY; and John F. Dwyer, NC-4902, Evanston, IL (Comanagers)

Program Overview

The first urban forest Resource Protection Act (RPA) assessment defined urban forests and quantified the spatial distribution of urban tree cover and urban tree and human populations across the United States (Dwyer et al. 2000, Connecting People with Ecosystems in the 21st Century: An Assessment of our Nation's Urban Forests). The report concluded that the U.S. urban forest is a significant, complex, and dynamic national resource that promises to increase in extent and importance in the years ahead. By understanding the functions and benefits provided by urban forests and how these forests are changing, better management and policy decisions can be made to enhance urban forest health and sustainability into the future.

Program Objectives

This special study has the following four objectives:

- To assess changes in urban forest extent and cover between 1991 (first urban forest RPA) and 2000.
- To develop a methodology to enable continual assessment of urban forest change in the future using Landsat data and census information.
- To quantify urban forest functions and values (e.g., carbon storage and sequestration, air quality improvement, building energy conservation) at the national, regional, and State scales.
- To assess urban forest sustainability as related to forest structure, functions, and health and within the context of the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators.

Program Accomplishments

- Obtained 2000 Census boundaries files.
- Completed or began analysis of five zones.
- Received contributions from cooperators on the development of the national cover map. Cooperators are working on various other zones.
- Completed of national urban forest carbon estimates (Nowak and Crane 2002).
- Completed data analyses of air pollution removal by urban forests nationally and for 50 individual cities. Data has currently been summarized in tables. Publication is in draft.

- Completed data analyses of national compensatory value of urban forests (Nowak et al. 2002).
- Completed analyses of building energy conservation effects and associated effects of carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Publication is in draft.

Final Urban Forest RPA Assessment Document

The new urban forest assessment document will be completed by FY 2005. The document will contain new information on the following:

- Urban tree cover, potentially plantable space, and impervious surface cover in the United States.
- National, regional, and State changes in urban tree cover between 1991 and 2000.
- National, regional, and State changes in the extent of urbanization and urban demographics between 1994 and 2000.
- National, regional, and State estimates of urban forest carbon storage, sequestration, and value.
- National, regional, and State estimates of air pollution removal by urban forests and its associated value.
- National, regional, and State estimates of urban forest compensatory value.
- National, regional, and State estimates of building energy conservation and associated effects on carbon emissions from power plants resulting from existing urban forest resources.
- Urban forest structure and functions in selected cities.
- Urban forest sustainability.
- Role of urban forests and urban forestry within the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators.
- Optimal urban forest structure to enhance benefits.



Figure 1. Ecozones of the coterminous United States.

Society of Municipal Arborists

Program Overview

With support from the USDA Forest Service U&CF Program, the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) will build its capacity to support the growing number of professional arborists that are being hired in response to the national program. Municipal arborists lead their communities in the education, planting, care, and maintenance of the urban forest, so it is critical that they have access to new and current information. For many municipal arborists, conferences and news articles provide the primary avenue of continuing education. SMA's *City Trees* magazine will publish articles summarizing presentations given at conferences so that SMA members who are unable to attend will learn of the new information and technology shared at these meetings. The visiting forester program will enable municipal arborists to learn directly from one another, and their experiences will be shared in *City Trees*.

Program Accomplishments

- A strategic planning process was begun at the annual conference in Ithaca, NY, in October 2002 and continued at the mid-year board meeting in January 2003.
- During the redesign process of *City Trees*, a National Issues page was added. Six bimonthly issues of the magazine were published in FY 2002.

- The executive director participated in many regional meetings of the International Society of Arboriculture to strengthen municipal presence and awareness.
- The SMA distributed complimentary issues of *City Trees* at the conferences attended by the executive director and to people who inquired about SMA via e-mail, phone, and mail.
- The SMA annual conference featured the following speakers: Karl Niklas, Paul Weston, Nina Bassuk, George Hudler, and Peter Trowbridge from Cornell University; Chris Luley and Jerry Bond from Davey Resource Group; Frances Kuo from the University of Illinois; Neil Hendrickson from Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories; and David J. Nowak from the USDA Forest Service.
- The SMA sponsored two visiting forester exchanges in FY 2002. The U.S. municipal arborists participating are from Indiana and Chicago, IL.

Contact

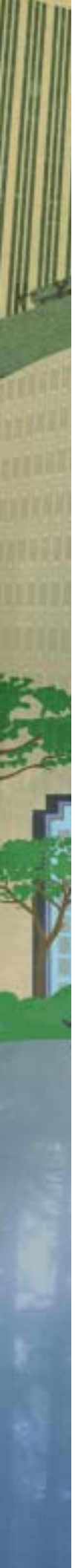
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Title VIII

The FY 2001 Interior Appropriations Bill provided funding for the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in Title VIII (Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement). Projects are selected based on the United States Census Bureau's Metropolitan

Statistical Area (MSA) and national U&CF Program Budget Allocation Criteria. MSA not only includes large urban core cities, but also rapidly MSAs will support the initiation of comprehensive urban forest management activities. Most activities are in progress and status reports are provided in this section.





Region 5



Hawaii

Grants

VIII-01. University of Hawaii Botany Department, Weed Risk Assessment Project. The scoring of more than 200 urban forestry plants to determine invasive tendencies, using Australia's Weed Risk Assessment System, was completed. In five followup meetings in each county, green industry professionals discussed how the landscape industry, government agencies, and other stakeholders could work together to minimize the risk of introducing new invasive plants to Hawaii. A second round of scoring plants continues.

VIII-02. The Outdoor Circle's Tropical Urban Forestry Management Plan Project. The project is nearly complete. Completing the analysis of existing conditions and creating a final draft of the management plan are the remaining steps and will greatly enhance how Honolulu's city and county departments communicate with each other and the community about trees.

VIII-03. Honolulu Botanical Gardens, Urban Forestry Enhancement Project. The project has completed several key objectives:

- Field tested 10 native Hawaiian trees for use in Hawaii's urban forest.
- Demonstrated the suitability of native trees for the urban forest.
- Conducted public education on the native Hawaiian trees selected.
- Trained landscape volunteers to perpetuate the project.
- Developed an educational brochure about urban landscaping with native plants.
- Developed a model process of steps to determine tree suitability for urban landscapes.

VIII-04. County of Maui, County of Maui Urban Forestry Inventory. The county of Maui has completed the purchase, integration, and training on the inventory and the Geographic Information System. The system is being field tested on sites in the Wailuku area.

2002 Kaulunani Urban Forestry Awards

The Kaulunani awards recognize exemplary projects and activities of organizations, schools, government agencies, and individuals. The following five categories of awards were presented:

- Outstanding Urban Forestry Achievement Awards, cosponsored with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.
- Outstanding Urban Forestry Organization Award for an organization's dedication to arboriculture awareness and improving maintenance and health of trees throughout the State.
- Riccio Award of Excellence, which recognizes an individual's volunteer commitment to Hawaii's urban forest.
- Kaulunani Kauila Award, which recognizes the leadership and dedication of an arborist professional.
- Christine Snyder Award, which recognizes youthful, aggressive leadership in urban forestry.

Workshops/Conference

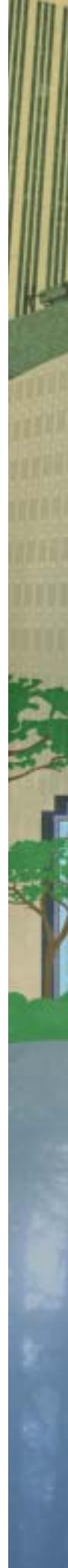
"Native Plants in Public Places: Hawaii's Unique Biological Heritage." With a goal of expanding the pallet of native plants used in Hawaii's unique tropical landscape, this Kaulunani-funded workshop featured speakers who are experts in the design, selection, use, installation, maintenance, and propagation of local native plants.

Getting to the Roots II. Root Pruning, Rubber Sidewalks, and Underground Critters. The green industry was invited to participate in a 1-day training workshop that addressed the importance of roots to the overall health of a tree, and the new innovations in root pruning, rubber sidewalks, and underground critters.

Creating Green Environments: How Ordinances Provide a Framework for Green Infrastructure. This conference provided an overview of what it means to create a sense of place in our Hawaii. By offering a historical perspective of parks, as well as the local and national "nuts and bolts" of ordinances, this conference demonstrated the vital relationships between the environment, the culture, and the people.

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2003 American Forests Summary Report

Project Name

Ecosystem Analysis of Four Metro Areas in the Southern Region

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Abstract

American Forests will work with project partners in Fayetteville, AR; Atlanta, GA; New Orleans, LA; and Roanoke, VA, on the analysis portion of their Title VIII projects. Depending on the scope of the project, American Forests will conduct a Landsat Imagery Analysis to determine tree canopy change over time. Another analysis using high-resolution imagery and site survey information will determine the ecological and economic value of the project's urban forest, including air quality benefits, stormwater runoff reduction, energy conservation, and carbon storage. Each partner will receive multiple copies of a report of the findings, a copy of CITYgreen and training, and press coverage.

Objectives Met

For this time period:
All CITYgreen trainings completed
Fayetteville, April 10-11, 2002
Roanoke, April 16-17, 2002
New Orleans, July 31-August 1, 2002

Atlanta: We have digitized the three sites and entered information on the design of future trees to run a comparison between existing conditions and new design. We have the design for all three study sites. Jeff Luvall has provided us with data comparing ground temperatures with different tree canopy cover percentages. We used a regression analysis to determine what the temperatures would be for our three study sites under existing, revised planting, and growth modeling conditions. A 12-page report, Projected Environmental Benefits of Community Tree Planting, was completed in October 2002, with 500 copies provided for local distribution.

New Orleans: We have completed analysis on the high resolution imagery and found that the city has a 24-percent tree canopy cover, 33 percent impervious surface, 28 percent open space, and 12 percent water. We calculated the environmental benefits of the urban forest. The local partners will conduct a CITYgreen analysis using their aerial imagery once they have been trained. CITYgreen training was conducted in July 2003 and July 31 and August 1, 2002. An Urban Ecosystem Analysis report was completed for local distribution.

Fayetteville: We conducted a sub-pixel and full pixel analysis of the Landsat data and have conducted the analysis of the IKONOS satellite imagery. The Landsat analysis showed a small (less than 1 percent) decrease in overall tree cover for the two county regions, but identified hot spots of decline near the airport and Benton County. The City of Fayetteville showed an 18-percent decline in heavy tree canopy. Patti Erwin conducted analyses using aerial imagery of one sample site and the findings will be used in the report. A 12-page Urban Ecosystem Analysis report (500 copies) and a two-page color addendum on Aerial Imagery for Natural Resource Management were produced and printed for local distribution. The report was completed in September 2002 and a press conference was held in January 2003.

Roanoke: We have reviewed the findings of the analysis and have detailed the percentage tree cover by different land use areas and 10 local communities within the Roanoke area. The Urban Ecosystem Analysis report was completed and 500 copies printed for local distribution.

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Atlanta Metropolitan Area/Georgia

Project Name

Georgia Model Urban Forest Demonstration Project

Project Partners

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Abstract

The objective of the project is for the Georgia Model Urban Forest Demonstration Project to help community leaders understand the need to preserve, plant, and maintain trees and forests as an important resource.

The following three development types will be compared:

1. Urban Core—Turner Field parking lot in the City of Atlanta.
2. Older Suburbs—A multiuse trail along Klondike Road from I-20 to Stonecrest Mall.
3. Newer Suburbs—Habitat for Humanity, Mount Zion Manor homes, City of Atlanta.

Objectives Met

Quarter 1

- Signed contracts with partners.
- Began site plans for Turner Field.
- Began site plans for Klondike Road Trail.
- Began site plans for Habitat for Humanity site.
- Began advertising.

Quarter 2

- Completed preconstruction videographing at all sites.
- Completed initial temperature reading at Turner Field site.
- Began excavation at Turner Field site.

Quarter 3

- Completed tree planting and onsite tree care education at Habitat for Humanity site.

Quarter 4

- Completed tree planting and videographing at Turner Field site.
- Reviewed public relations materials.
- Obtained temperature information from Jeff Luvall (American Forests).

Quarter 5

- Had conference call update with American Forests regarding site modeling.
- Held partner meeting.
- Sought copies of Construction Development Guide for Habitat for Humanity.
- Conducted video interviews.

Quarter 6

- Held partner meeting with Arabia Mountain landscape architect.
- Sought materials to complete video production; met to discuss video script.
- Held partner meeting to review brochure text and graphics and to discuss PR event.
- Reviewed American Forests report.

Quarter 7

- Edited American Forests report.
- Met with partner, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity on Educational Calendar for all homebuyers.
- Reviewed revised proofs for brochure and CD ROM.

Objectives Not Yet Met

- Planting site preparation at Stonecrest Mall.

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Birmingham, Alabama

Project Name

Metro Birmingham—Remote Sensing and Interpretations for Urban Forestry

Project Partners

Trees for Alabama
Storm Water Management Authority (SWMA), Inc.
Department of Horticulture and Urban Forestry
Cawaco Resource and Development Council, Inc.
Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham College

Abstract

The primary purpose of this project is to establish a baseline of information on the urban forest canopy and green space in Jefferson County, AL, and to communicate the state of the urban forest to the political leaders and the decisionmakers within the incorporated cities of the area.

This project will document current forest canopy and green space using IKONOS satellite imagery and use current models to determine the ecosystem value and the positive effect on air quality, energy use, and stormwater runoff.

A regional tree summit will be held to give an annual state-of-the-trees update. In addition, written reports will be given to each city within the geographic area of the study. This will provide information and evidence to local groups and civic leaders to formulate plans to protect, reforest, and improve the overall urban forest canopy in the area.

Objectives Met

Satellite "cloud recovery" imagery was received and integrated into existing imagery to form a more "cloud free" view of the study area.

Preliminary vegetative analysis was performed using a combination of unsupervised and supervised

classification methods with ERDAS IMAGINE software. Five distinct classes were identified: impervious, semipervious, hardwood cover, pine cover, and unclassified areas (shadows, etc.). Initial results, reported by municipality, were calculated, posted on the SWMA Web site, and reported to several organizations including the following:

4-11-02, Southern Environmental Center Livable Cities Conference
4-11-02, Friends of Shades Creek
4-17-02, USDA Forest Service review
4-29-02, GLOBE (Taylor Steele from the Mcwane Center)
5-22-02, Report to Trees for Alabama Board
6-11-02, State Foresters Conference
8-14-02, Governor's Conference on GIS
10-3-02, Regional Tree Summit

An accuracy assessment was performed for the initial classification with 82 percent accuracy for tree delineation.

A refined classification was performed using a transformed normalized difference vegetative index combined with supervised and unsupervised classification to produce two distinct classes of treed and untreed areas.

An accuracy assessment was performed for the second classification, and accuracy was improved to 91 percent.

FY 2001 leaf-off imagery was received and processed.

Objectives Not Yet Met

Application of models
Reports to cities

Contact

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Fairfax County Metro Area, Virginia

Project Name

Mapping Extents and Nature of Forest and Water Resources in Northern Virginia

Abstract

The primary objective of the proposal is to provide private and public stakeholders with highly accurate Geographic Information System (GIS) data that quantifies the historic and current extents and nature of Northern Virginia's forest, wetland, and water resources on an individual watershed basis.

Other objectives include the following:

- To provide analytical tools and data that will enable stakeholders to identify and communicate the effects of urbanization trends on existing forest, wetland, and water resources within the context of regional and local land-use planning processes.
- To foster dialog and collaboration among local stakeholders and encourage multijurisdictional efforts to accomplish the goals of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.
- To establish baseline data necessary for formulating individual watershed management plans.

Objectives Met

- Partnered with Fairfax County GIS Office to coordinate use of GIS/GPS software and computer equipment.
- Acquired 1995 and 2000 10-meter SPOT satellite imagery (pro bono).
- Produced year 1995 and 2000 tree cover benchmark analysis for study area.
- Identified ground truthing areas needed for entire study area to establish initial database of reflective values.
- Met with Fairfax County Park Authority staff and Prince William County to devise data collection methodology.
- Finalized data collection methodology and generated needed forms and databases to record data.
- Completed training of Urban Forestry Division Staff, Park Authority Naturalist Staff, Huntley

Meadows Park Volunteers, and Prince William County Arborist in data collection methodology.

- Completed data collection and GPS location of 165 of 210 data collection points.
- Worked with Fairfax County Department of Purchasing and Supply Management to develop sole source contract with DigitalGlobe Service, Inc., to purchase satellite imagery.
- Acquired 450 km² (covers Eastern Fairfax County, Arlington County, and City Of Alexandria) of the total 2,106 km² of needed 2.6-meter multispectral satellite imagery.
- Partnered with Virginia Tech forestry graduate student (working on Master's degree) to begin identifying known National Vegetation Classification Standards (NVCS) vegetation communities that are present in Northern Virginia.
- Began GIS analysis, correlating reflective values of satellite imagery to georeferenced field data in 450 km² of study area.
- Contracted with DigitalGlobe to acquire remaining 1,656 km² of satellite imagery by summer/fall of FY 2004.

Objectives Not Yet Met

- Acquisition of 1990 SPOT 10-meter satellite imagery.
- Production of the 1990 tree cover analysis for study area.
- Acquisition of 1,656 km² of 2.6-meter multispectral satellite imagery of the total 2,106 km² needed.
- Production of NVCS mapping for study area broken down into 67 major watersheds.
- Production of environmental and socioeconomic benefits report.

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Fayetteville Area, Arkansas

Project Name

Northwest Regional Airport Urban Ecosystem Analysis

Project Partners

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City of Fayetteville

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Abstract

The objective of the project is to produce a working document for local governments and organizations involved in the planning for northwest Arkansas. The information in this document will identify existing watersheds and canopy cover in and around the airport and surrounding communities. A 3-D simulation of

images will depict the loss of forest cover, due to land changes, over the last 20 to 30 years. The analysis will also include the dollar value of the tree cover in terms of air and water quality and energy savings. Communities will be able to visualize how growth has affected their natural resources; they will have a better understanding of the benefits trees provide, and they will have guidelines for addressing future growth management issues in relationship to their natural resources.

Objectives Met

Completed CITYgreen trainings
Fayetteville April 10-11, 2002
Presentation of findings to local governments by American Forests.

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Greenville/Spartanburg Metropolitan Area, South Carolina

Project Name

Assessment of Urban Forest Cover and Structure in the Greenville-Spartanburg Metropolitan Area: Implications and Opportunities for Local Policy Changes

Project Partners

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Abstract

The Interstate 85 corridor in northwestern South Carolina has experienced explosive growth over the past 20 years. During that period, the rate of land conversion to urban uses has been estimated to be greater than 200 percent. This project will assess the urban forest resources of the Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP) urban growth corridor along Interstate 85. Within this corridor, the assessment will provide a base understanding of these resources and how they change over time. The 750-square mile study area

includes all key municipalities in the corridor, plus a window of 5 miles on either side of Interstate 85. The project will (1) describe and quantify the urban forest structure; (2) document changes in forest cover over time; (3) evaluate the effects of those changes; (4) establish baseline information and permanent inventory plots for future assessments; (5) use the results to inform and educate public policymakers, the private sector, and the public; and (6) be used to produce a strategy for mitigating past problems and conserving existing urban natural resources. The study area currently includes many urban forest fragments, including many sensitive components associated with critical riparian zones. Many of these forest remnants have significant potential for protection and enhancement through public green space programs, provided management programs are developed and implemented soon.

Objectives Met

Orthorectified mosaics of the study area have been developed from the 1981, 1989, and 1999 aerial photographs. These have been used to "train" the Landsat images for the different coverages being analyzed. In the study area, 100 permanent plot sites were randomly selected according to the protocol developed by Nowak's research unit. Plot and tree data have been collected according to the Syracuse protocol. Data are being "cleaned up" for use in the UFORE model. One animated visual "fly-over" of a portion of the study area has been created to contrast 1981 to 1999 conditions. The fly-over and PowerPoint® presentations have been used to present information about the project to a southern regional urban forestry workshop, the South Carolina U&CF Conference, and local county officials.

Objectives Not Yet Met

Data analysis, modeling, additional visualization, and Web-based products.

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Houston, Texas

Project Name

Houston Green—Building Houston's Green Infrastructure

Project Partners

USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station

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Houston Green Coalition

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Abstract

The Houston Green project study area is the City of Houston and the surrounding eight-county metropolitan area. Digital cover maps will be produced and merged with field data collected within these areas to develop a detailed urban forest data set for geographic information systems (GIS). This data will be used to determine the effect of urban trees on air quality, to document this impact in a State of the Urban Forest report, and to develop new computer tools to help local leaders make urban forestry management decisions to improve the quality of life in the Houston area.

Objectives Met

6/29/01: In preparation for field data collection, the Texas Forest Service (TFS) prepared a Request for Bid package to solicit bids for collecting field data on 300

fixed-radius plots in the eight-county region. The UFORE training manual was edited to conform to the needs of the study and was also available at the above Web site. Bids from contractors were due July 11, 2002, and field work was scheduled to commence by August 1, 2002.

9/28/01: Bids for data collection came in beyond the budget to complete the work, so no bid was awarded. TFS took on the role of plot location and a second bid package was distributed in January 2002, with data collection commencing in late March 2002. Study design was altered to better conform to the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program plot location arrangement, and the UFORE manual was edited accordingly.

12/28/01: TFS contracted with Texas A&M University's Spatial Sciences Lab (SSL) to assist with plot location fieldwork. Approximately 20 percent of the 348 plot locations were located and marked on the ground. Once all the plot locations were located, bids for the actual data collection work was solicited.

3/30/02: Texas A&M's SSL completed approximately 75 percent of the plot location work. TFS foresters located and collected ground cover data on plots with no trees to speed up the process. UFORE field manual was completed; contract for tree data collection work was to be awarded in the next quarter.

6/29/02: Texas A&M's SSL fulfilled its contract and located all the UFORE plots where data will be collected. UFORE field manual was revised to better conform to urban FIA data collection procedures, under the guidance of Dr. Nowak. Bids for field data collection due were to be received next quarter.

9/28/02: UFORE field manual was completed, a contractor chosen, and approximately 40 percent of field plot data were collected. Dr. Nowak began work on two GIS computer tools (species selector and planting site locator), and began photo-interpretation analysis of the region in preparation for air-quality modeling work. Future projection model to project forest structure and effects was completed.

12/30/02: Field data collection by contractor was completed at the end of November 2002. Burditt Associates located a total of 177 plots containing at least one tree and collected all pertinent data on trees, shrubs, buildings, and ground covers. In addition, TFS staff located another 157 plots with no trees, bringing the total number of UFORE plots to 334. Raw data was sent to Dr. Nowak for processing in the UFORE model. Outputs will be coordinated with modelers contracted by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly TNRCC) to allow air-quality modeling to move forward in the spring of 2003. Field Data Collection objective is now complete.

Objectives Not Yet Met

All of the objectives, except for the Field Data Collection.

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New Orleans, Louisiana

Project Name

New Orleans Inner City Reforestation Project

Project Partners

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Abstract

The project will consist of the following three major components:

1. Conduct CITYgreen analysis of the Greater New Orleans area and use it as a tool to expand knowledge about the benefits of the urban tree canopy.

2. Develop tree-growing outstations at George Washington Carver High School and at Orleans Parish Sheriff's Department. High school students and work-release personnel will be educated to maintain tree-growing outstations.
3. Conduct demonstration tree plantings on up to three public properties in Orleans Parish, under the direction of the City of New Orleans Parks and Parkways Department. Students will participate in the development of the layout, materials list, and planting plan.

Objectives Met

The CITYgreen project is complete. Training in the use of CITYgreen software has taken place for representatives of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes, as well as for project partners and educators. The summary report has been received and distributed.

Objectives Not Yet Met

None of the other objectives has been completely met at this time, but all are progressing as planned.

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Roanoke Area, Virginia

Project Name

Roanoke Area Urban Ecosystem Analysis

Project Partners

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Abstract

American Forests will work with project partners in Fayetteville, AR; Atlanta, GA; New Orleans, LA; and Roanoke, VA, on the analysis portion of their Title VIII projects. Depending on the scope of the project, American Forests will conduct a Landsat imagery analysis to determine tree canopy change over time. Another analysis using high-resolution imagery and site survey information will determine the ecological and economic value of the project's urban forest,

including air-quality benefits, stormwater runoff reduction, energy conservation, and carbon storage. Each partner will receive multiple copies of a report of the findings, a copy of CITYgreen and training, and press coverage.

Objectives Met

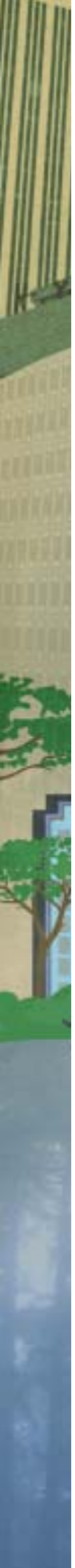
The findings of the analysis have been reviewed, and they have detailed the percentage tree cover by different land use areas and 10 local communities within the Roanoke area. The Urban Ecosystem Analysis report was completed and 500 copies printed for local distribution.

Objectives Not Yet Met

None, Project completed.

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Region 10





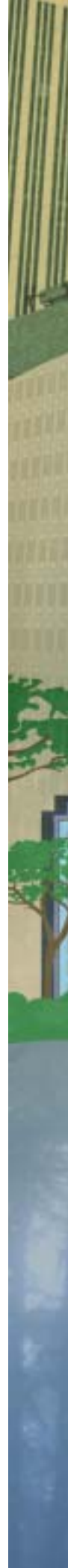
Ancorage, Alaska

Title VIII Project

The State of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage entered into a partnership to develop a manual, *Tree Guidelines for the Municipality of Anchorage*. Grant recipients worked with the Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education to begin the fieldwork last summer. Research was to be completed to help

quantify benefits and costs of "green infrastructure" in order to increase the awareness and investment in urban and community forests. The project has been postponed until an updated street tree inventory can be completed for Anchorage.

Northeastern Area



Baltimore, Maryland

Project Name

Baltimore Strategic Urban Forests Assessment

Recipient

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service

Abstract

This Title VIII project took concepts of the Maryland Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Strategic Forest Lands Assessment and applied them to an urban scale, defining the contribution that this important landscape makes to the greater watershed of the Chesapeake Bay. The Strategic Urban Forests Assessment in Baltimore is a partnership between the USDA Forest Service, Maryland DNR Forest Service, Baltimore City, the Parks and People Foundation, and other local organizations.

To initiate the process, leaf-on IKONOS Imagery [1 meter] satellite imagery) was obtained for the entire city of Baltimore. A vegetation mask was produced, providing for a high-resolution tree canopy/land cover analysis of the city. The city is in process of overlaying site-specific land-use information (parks, hiker-biker

trails, street tree corridors, etc.) to establish baseline tree cover and set targets for tree cover enhancement for these site types. Further, the city will overlay community statistical information with tree cover in each of 55 neighborhoods, enabling establishment of tree cover goals and other environmental indicators and measures for the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance.

This effort will serve as a long-term planning template for the city and partners, beginning with Mayor O'Malley's Paint the Town Green tree-planting initiative in the fall 2002.

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Battle Creek, Michigan

Project Name

Implementing Comprehensive Forest Management

Recipient

Leila Arboretum Society

Abstract

The Leila Arboretum, in partnership with the city of Battle Creek, MI, is using Title VIII funding to ensure full implementation of a comprehensive forestry management system. The funding will be used specifically to implement phase I of a management plan developed by the arboretum's Tree Advisory Council. Progress on this project has been significant, timely, and of a very high quality.

Objectives Met

- A tree inventory for the city of Battle Creek was completed in March 2002. The Tree Advisory Council used the findings of the inventory to formulate a comprehensive management plan, which was completed in October 2002, with appropriate phase 1 actions identified.
- The Tree Advisory Council continues to work with Battle Creek to keep the city aware of the needs of the urban forest. In October 2002, the Tree Advisory Council presented both a comprehensive management plan and an overview of the state of the urban forest to the city commission.

- The Tree Advisory Council identified critical preventative maintenance practices as part of the management plan. In November 2002, the council distributed a request for proposals to complete these activities. Pruning and removal of trees in targeted areas will begin in 2003.
- The Tree Advisory Council has initiated Citizen Forester Training workshops for residents and volunteers training sessions have occurred in fall 2001 and in both spring and fall 2002, with 40 people having been trained.
- The city of Battle Creek has begun work to remove hazard trees identified in inventory data. The city has also initiated a replanting effort to replace trees along major thoroughfares. At this time, 32 volunteers had helped plant 31 trees.
- Recently, the Battle Creek Enquirer published information about the state of Battle Creek's urban forest. The article was picked up by the Associated Press, the Jackson Citizen Patriot, the Kalamazoo Gazette, several local television and radio stations, and at least one online source.

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Boston, Massachusetts

Project Name

Natural Cities Project

Recipient

Urban Ecology Institute, Boston College

Abstract

Title VIII funding enabled the Urban Ecology Institute to develop and field-test methods for effective urban ecosystem research and restoration, leading to improvements in the Greater Boston Harbor ecosystem. The institute determined that the most cost-effective strategy for improving ecosystem health was restoration of forest cover. The program has produced the Ecological Resources Map and has field-tested the Rapid Ecological Assessment protocol for urban ecosystems. Site restoration plans are under way. Led by community partners, the program will design and test policy and advocacy tools for protecting and restoring these resources.

Objectives Met

- Completed the Ecological Resources Map for the Greater Boston Harbor ecosystem.
- Developed a model field protocol, the Rapid Ecological Assessment, for protecting and restoring critical ecosystem resources in an urban area.
- Established criteria for ranking critical ecological resources in an urban area.
- Created a set of field-tested legal and policy tools for the protection and restoration of critical ecological resources in an urban area.
- Selected demonstration sites for protecting and restoring critical ecological resources in the Mystic River watershed of the Greater Boston Harbor ecosystem.
- Planned an annual research meeting on the state of ecosystem resources in the Greater Boston Harbor watershed region.

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Buffalo, New York

Project Name

Urban Forestry Ecosystem Restoration

Recipient

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County

Abstract

This Title VIII project provides communities and municipal governments in the Buffalo-Niagara metropolitan area with an introduction to the principles, benefits, and best management practices of urban forest ecosystem restoration (UFER). It includes an education campaign, technical assistance for common restoration problems, and a regional ecosystem analysis that will support urban forest planning, restoration, and management. Implementation involved expanding partnerships of local, State and Federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and community members.

Objectives Met

- Developed a child-oriented urban forestry display for the regional Earth Day celebration.
- Completed working group sessions to develop the "urban forestry ecosystem restoration" concepts and their relationship to a variety of urban audiences.

- Selected sites for UFER best management practices.
- Conducted a flight in mid-September 2002 for aerial photographs to support CityGreen analysis.
- Completed city of Buffalo tree inventory.
- Completed city of Buffalo green infrastructure and open space inventory.
- Coordinated development of a Master Tree Management Plan with city planning and forestry personnel.
- Helped develop a greening strategy to connect Olmsted and greenway resources to neighborhood business districts for both greening and marketing.
- Presented the UFER story at the Great Lakes Economic Development Conference held in Buffalo in September 2002.

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Chicago, Illinois

Project Name

Managing the City's New Green Infrastructure

Recipient

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development

Abstract

With Forest Service Title VIII funding, the City of Chicago Department of Planning (CDP) has developed a database of existing green open spaces in the city that previously had not been adopted by management agencies or fully integrated into operational maintenance. The CDP is inventorying the city's new school campus parks, river edge, and community garden landscapes, as well as planned development sites. The Campus Park project, for example, removed more than 200 acres of asphalt from 80 public schools and replaced it with playgrounds, trees, and grass. The city had not previously placed these new green spaces into a tracking system.

This project has brought city land management agencies together in a united goal with the nonprofit community. The CDP is working in cooperation with the Chicago Bureau of Forestry, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Park District, Chicago Botanic Garden, Metro Information Center, Morton Arboretum, NeighborSpace, and the Open Lands Project. Beyond conducting site inventories and inspections, this project included staff interviews, analysis, and development of a final management plan. On the 25 planned development sites, 985 trees were counted, including green ash, Austrian pine, honeylocust, and littleleaf linden, representing 32 percent of the trees inventoried so far.

Much of the Campus Park work is being completed through the use of aerial photos from existing schools (flyovers), which are then digitized to enable accurate representation of variables such as buildings, parking, playgrounds, and green space around buildings, parkways, and other spaces.

Objectives Met

- The Planning Department has completed 4.4 miles of the 6.5 miles slated for inventory.
- Preliminary results suggest good maintenance with evidence of attempts to reintroduce native tree canopy.
- The Campus Park phase is progressing well, with approximately 375 acres of urban land data compiled.
- Approximately 67 of the 101 schools have been completed, with another 34 being at various stages of completion.

The following quote is from an April 2002 press release by Chicago's Mayor Daley.

"Thanks to our campus park program, we are tearing up the asphalt and replacing it with grass, trees, and shrubbery." Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley

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Grand Calumet Region, Illinois and Indiana

Project Name

Open Space Planning in the Calumet Region

Recipient

Grand Calumet Task Force

Abstract

This project engages underserved, low-income residential neighborhoods in a collaborative open space planning process. The Grand Calumet Task Force is a partnership between the city of East Chicago, Calumet Neighborhoods Community Garden, Kennedy Gardens, Christmas in April, Openlands Project, and The Trust for Public Land. The products include neighborhood open space plans for the targeted communities of South Deering in Chicago, IL, and Calumet in East Chicago, IN. Results will include demonstration green spaces that illustrate the use of native plants and of plantings that attract wildlife in an urban setting, as well as educational and outreach materials that can be used for public and school-based programming about urban nature, the urban forest, and urban biodiversity.

Meetings have been held in conjunction with monthly CAPS (community policing) meetings. In addition, the seniors at Trumbull Park Homes are participating in the development of a native flower garden on one site. Community interviews have been completed with the selection of 21 sites that will be included in the final

Open Space Plan. The task force has also begun research into ownership of and securing deeds for vacant lots.

Objectives Met

- Five pilot sites have been chosen and a landscape plan for the first of those five is in the design phase.
- The draft of an Open Space Plan emphasizing the use of native plants and habitat for South Deering is complete.
- A model prairie garden has been created at the task force's regular meeting place at St. Kevin's Church.
- Vacant lot native-plant gardens have been approved and initial designs developed for 11 different sites.
- New trees have been planted at parkway sites.

"We need the power of community to achieve success."
Bowden Quinn, Executive Director, Grand Calumet Task Force

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Madison, Wisconsin

Project Name

Wisconsin's Urban Forests: Partnership in Action

Recipient

Urban Open Space Foundation

Abstract

The Wisconsin's Urban Forest: Partnership in Action project has enabled the Urban Open Space Foundation (UOSF) to lead a new broad-based network of citizen activists and business leaders, public agency representatives, and resource managers in comprehensive resource planning efforts in each of Wisconsin's three largest metropolitan areas. The partnership is designed to create a strong and effective voice for the importance and relevance of urban open space in making Wisconsin communities vibrant and healthy—ecologically, economically, socially, and culturally. Currently, the Community Open Space Partnership has 38 organizational partners.

Objectives Met

- The UOSF hired Katie Beilfuss to serve as the program manager to help develop and coordinate the Community Open Space Partnership. The partnership continues to meet monthly.
- A steering committee was formed and regional open space forums were held in the State's most populous regions: the Fox Valley-Green Bay area, south central Wisconsin, and southeastern Wisconsin. At these

forums, participants worked together to discuss "green infrastructure" land-use issues and were encouraged to create continuous physical networks of natural areas rather than a collection of independent parcels. Based on the work of the forums, an advocacy and public outreach campaign will be implemented to promote green infrastructure.

- Using information from the forums, the partnership has begun developing a guidebook entitled, "Wisconsin's Green Infrastructure Reinvestment Plan." The plan identifies urban and urbanizing landscapes that currently or potentially form the foundation of green community-supporting infrastructure. The plan will provide recommendations for actions needed to protect and improve these properties so that the economic, biological, and social benefits to surrounding neighborhoods and downtowns can be maximized.
- The partnership developed the Great Lakes Virtual Resource Center (designed for Midwestern Great Lakes States) (<http://www.ouopenspaces.org>). The site helps connect open space enthusiasts with the people, tools, and funding necessary to support local urban forest goals.

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Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minnesota

Project Name

Invasive Species Management Project

Recipient

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Abstract

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board was awarded a Title VIII grant to assist with public education, survey, and removal of woody invasive species on selected public parklands and private properties in neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The project focuses efforts aimed at restoring the health of the Minneapolis–St. Paul urban forest by controlling woody invasive species. Specific project components include completing a survey of selected parklands for invasive species; using city, contract, and volunteer labor to remove invasive plants; developing dynamic partnerships among neighborhoods, organizations, and municipalities; providing opportunities for community-based education related to invasive species management; and documenting the entire process for use by others. Progress and project success have been rapid and significant.

Objectives Met

- The project completed four successful neighborhood training sessions for master gardeners and volunteers on proper survey techniques for buckthorn. It also took surveys that have been used to develop eradication and restoration plans for targeted areas in the Mississippi River corridor and in selected parks.
- The project has removed significant amounts of buckthorn on both public and private lands; specifically at the Roberts Bird Sanctuary (30-acre site at Lake Harriet), Swede Hollow Park, Highwood Nature Preserve, and the Crosby Farm Nature Park bluff top, where the land has been cleared of buckthorn.
- The University of Minnesota is studying buckthorn berry-invested mulch to determine appropriate uses.
- Neighborhood volunteers have worked together to remove buckthorn.
- A regional buckthorn conference was held in 2001, and the proceedings have been published in a series of newsletters and magazines.

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Newark and Wilmington, Delaware

Project Name

Urban Forest Management in Newark and Wilmington, DE

Recipient

Delaware Center for Horticulture

Abstract

The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH), in partnership with the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Forest Service and the cities of Wilmington and Newark, used Title VIII grant funds to conduct tree inventories and establish databases that will contribute to improved management of community trees and forests in the most populated area of the State.

Objectives Met

The Davey Resource Group (DRG) completed the Wilmington inventory in June 2002. DRG developed a full inventory and suggested 5-year management plan, including a complete range of individual reports. The inventory is being housed on TreeKeeper Online. This Web-based system meshed well with the management needs of Wilmington's municipal structure. Many offices now have access to important tree data that could only have been guessed at previously. The Davey Resource Group provided training to DCH and DDA staffs, as well as to participants from Wilmington's Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Inventory data have been used to determine priority work areas. The city and DCH will periodically update the data.

ACRT completed the Newark inventory in the fall of 2002. As DRG had done with the Wilmington inventory, ACRT developed a full report with management objectives. Staff from the city, DCH, and DDA attended training for the software in December 2002. The City of Newark chose ACRT Tree Manager software that will be housed on site and at the DCH. This software was an advantage to Newark because of its compatibility with computer-aided design (CAD) data, widely used by departments within the city. The inventory documents important factors, such as individual tree health and species, that will help facilitate improved urban forest health, diversity, and habitat value.

Both inventories have provided databases necessary to plan maintenance work in city parks and along streets. They are providing information to prioritize hazard tree removals; identify testing needs for tree structure and health; guide the budgetary process for maintenance work, including cabling, health and disease treatments, and pruning; schedule tree-trimming cycles with the goal of reducing power outages; and communicate urban forestry needs to city councils, potential funders, and residents.

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New York, New York

Project Name

OASIS II: Urban Canopy Enhancements through Interactive Mapping

Recipient

New York Public Interest Research Group

Abstract

This Title VIII project provides a showcase for using a sophisticated but easy-to-use online mapping system as a platform to collect, analyze, and distribute new data about neighborhood trees and urban canopy in New York City (NYC) to a wide audience of decision-makers, greening advocates, the media, and community residents. The Open Accessible Space Information System (OASIS) in New York was a groundbreaking proof-of-concept that was conceived and funded initially by the USDA Forest Service as an accessible information system to help enhance the stewardship of open space so these areas are linked, diverse, and sustainable. The award-winning Web site and mapping service—<http://www.oasisnyc.net>—is the centerpiece of a coalition of more than 40 nonprofit organizations, private companies, government agencies, and academic institutions, including the city's Parks and Recreation Department, the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, and the New York Restoration Project. Several of these organizations recognized the need to incorporate information about neighborhood trees and urban canopy through the OASIS Web site because no other organizations or agencies were developing such a system. The Urban Canopy Enhancements through Interactive Mapping project fills that gap.

Objectives Met

Although delayed by the events of September 11, the project's field work and analysis component are now substantially complete, and the partner organizations are finishing the plan to disseminate the results via the OASIS mapping site. During spring 2001, New York Public Interest Research Group's (NYPIRG) Community Mapping Assistance Project (lead group for the OASIS Web site), Trees New York, and USDA Forest Service employee David Nowak worked together

to modify course materials to train citizen pruners to conduct field surveys of neighborhood trees in three communities in New York City. Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) (software partner and technical assistance provider), the Council on the Environment of NYC (CENYC), and Trees New York have since trained several dozen citizen pruners to collect detailed tree information. Working throughout the summer 2002 in three Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island neighborhoods, the pruners collected information on more than 400 trees. The pruners used different survey instruments—handheld computers with ArcPad mapping software, printed surveys and maps, and spreadsheets—to compare and contrast the best methods of data collection.

The State University of New York's (SUNY's) School of Environmental Science and Forestry and the USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Research Station have analyzed the data to quantify the societal benefits of individual trees—calculating not only basic statistics such as diameter at breast height (DBH) and height and leaf area, but also the amounts of key air pollutants each tree removes per year (such as carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulate matter) and the dollar value of this natural filtration process. The individual tree data will then be included at the OASIS Web site as an additional Geographic Information System layer that can be accessed dynamically, enabling Web visitors to zoom to their neighborhood, click on a specific tree, and determine its environmental and economic benefits to the surrounding area.

Finally, the Title VIII partner groups will be developing a community manual describing their work, so that other organizations can undertake similar initiatives in other areas, and that the New York activities can be expanded citywide.

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Northern New Jersey

Project Name

Addressing Sprawl-Innovative Community Forestry Strategies

Recipient

North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development

Abstract

This project builds capacity among municipalities and professionals to manage woodland resources in critical suburbanizing communities. The impact of sprawl type development has had a profound effect on trees and forests in Northern New Jersey. North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) used interviews with key individuals to identify specific urban forestry issues that need to be addressed as part of the project's training and education and outreach. RC&D prepared maps for three pilot projects in municipalities, using a methodology that helps communities characterize, identify, assess, and prioritize community forestry resources. Workshops and public meetings have articulated multiple values of woodland conservation, best management practices, planning issues and options, and New Jersey community forestry law and plans. RC&D developed a draft handbook documenting the collected information and offering information, solutions, and references for municipalities and developers. A "lessons learned" document that evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of project process and tasks will enable future projects to benefit from this project's experience.

Objectives Met

- Completed a review of local municipal master plans, land development ordinances, and community forestry plans related to woodland conservation and growth management issues. Generally, the review learned that communities did not adequately characterize, manage, or articulate their preservation objectives for their forest resources in their community master plans.
- Conducted a needs assessment through interviews with a wide variety of public officials and private

developers. Summarized the results of the interviews in a report that described the level of awareness and identified needs of all constituent groups.

- Funded small projects that will improve the integration of woodland protection and management in the community. Those projects are currently under way and include a mandatory public outreach component.
- Held two countywide workshops on New Jersey community forestry law and community forestry plan development. The series focused on the basics of the New Jersey community forestry law and how to develop a community forestry plan pursuant to State requirements. More than 70 people from 12 communities in Hunterdon County attended these workshops.
- Conducted a workshop on tree conservation and protection. More than 40 local officials attended a workshop entitled "Building Greener Communities: Woodland Conservation through Creative Planning Techniques." The workshop covered why and how to identify, plan, and implement a successful community forestry program. Workshop participants toured development sites to see strategies for protecting forests during the development process.
- Completed the final draft of a handbook containing existing information on how to effectively develop and implement a community forestry program.
- Drafted forest maps to help towns inventory, assess, and prioritize their woodland resources. The maps characterize forest types using Rutgers University's Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis—land-cover data. The draft maps included forest cover, municipal boundaries, and major roads. Also provided the municipalities with information on areas of forest loss or gain between 1985 and 1997.

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Project Name

Philadelphia Regional Ecosystem Analysis

Recipient

American Forests, Inc.

Partners

Partners for this study include the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, and the USDA Forest Service.

Abstract

American Forests, Inc., has been assessing urban forests across the country with a process called the Regional Ecosystem Analysis. Results are used to enhance public understanding of the value and function of community trees and forests as they contribute positively to stormwater reduction, air quality, and energy conservation. Since 1996, American Forests has completed assessments in 21 metropolitan areas. With funding and other resources from the USDA Forest Service and local partners, American Forests performed an analysis of the Philadelphia region in 2002. The analysis had the following three components:

1. Regional Analysis Using Landsat Imagery. Collected a 3-year sequence of low-resolution satellite imagery of the nine-county Philadelphia region and analyzed the information to classify and identify changes in tree canopy and other important land covers.
2. Regional Analysis Using IKONOS Imagery. Acquired high-resolution satellite imagery for three watersheds within the region and will use the information to refine the regional land cover analysis that Landsat provided.
3. Local Analysis Using Aerial Photography. Will analyze high-resolution digital aerial photography for selected sample sites to further classify land features (trees, grass, impervious surface). Will collect additional information about species, soil types, rainfall, and land use and input the data into American Forests' CITYgreen™ model to calculate stormwater, air quality, and energy benefits.

Objectives Met

- Completed the urban forest trend analysis of Landsat imagery and ground truthing activities.
- Provided training on CITYgreen software for local partners.
- Completed the analysis of the three focus area watersheds. The draft report is in process.
- Completed field surveys of 10 sites for local analysis using ArcPad and hand-held computers.

Published study results and distributed it widely to agencies and organizations to enhance their understanding of the value and function of Philadelphia's urban forest.

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Syracuse, New York

Project Name

Tree Stewards Training

Recipient

Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, Onondaga County

Abstract

Through this Title VIII project, Syracuse municipal staff and volunteers were trained as community tree stewards to inventory, assess, and maintain community trees. These tree stewards will transfer their knowledge to their own neighborhoods to implement forest management plans, increase urban forest awareness, increase resource health, and develop local tree commissions. The volunteers participated in projects in county and city parks to plant, prune, and maintain trees.

Objectives Met

- Visited 14 county, State, and city parks to determine maintenance needs that volunteers could work on, including inventory, master plan, planting, mulching, and pruning.

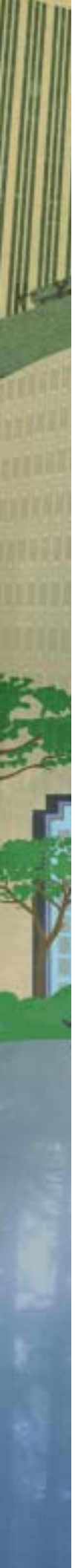
- Developed two 6-hour workshops for municipal staff on tree inventory and hazard tree identification.
- Completed a park inventory with community volunteers using digital recorders. Participants assessed a hazardous tree, observed its being taken down, and reassessed it once it was cut apart.
- Provided four 2-hour and one 8-hour Saturday evening training sessions to 42 volunteers.
- Produced a 60-page tree resource manual and other resource material for participants.
- Project statistics: 25 volunteers spent 216 volunteer hours pruning 334 trees and mulching 274 trees in 7 parks.

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